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AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE
ASSOCIATION

Rural Organization

1929

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
TWELFTH AMERICAN COUNTRY
LIFE CONFERENCE

Ames, Iowa
October 17-20, 1929

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FOREWORD

This volume presents the proceedings of the Twelfth American Country Life Conference, held at the Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, October 17-20, 1929, upon the general topic of "Rural Organization."

The great majority of the papers and addresses are published here. A number of those which do not appear here have been, or will be, printed in *Rural America,* the journal of the American Country Life Association.

The addresses delivered upon the occasion of the dedication of the Henry C. Wallace Memorial are printed separately and may be secured from Donald P. Murphy, Managing Editor of *Wallaces' Farmer,* Des Moines, Iowa.

Certain addresses were given extemporaneously and no record was obtainable for these proceedings.

In general, we may say that the conference theme was dealt with by many persons with a great variety of experience. Recent developments in organization and numerous plans for future programs were stressed. Other important facts about the conference were the following:

Nearly one-half of the 1,036 registered delegates at the national Country Life Conference at Iowa State College, October 17th to 20th, were farmers, according to figures compiled by W. H. Stacy, secretary of the program committee. This registration does not include the 100 speakers at the conference or 50 odd students who attended the rural youth section. Beside the Iowa registration twenty-seven other states were represented at the conference by 177 persons. Next to Story County, Iowa, with 181 registered delegates, Polk County had the next highest number with 49, while Marshall was third with 38. The total attendance was over 3,000 persons.

Ames demonstrated in a most unusual way the possibilities of coöperation between the agricultural extension service and the A. C. L. A.

WOI, the Iowa State College Station, broadcast several of the general sessions. The conference was also most fortunate

to have a national broadcast program over a network of the National Broadcasting Company, at which Governor Lowden and Secretary Hyde spoke.

The music was a special attraction. We had with us, for example, the Lybarger Farm Bureau Orchestra of Mitchell County, Iowa; the Hamilton County, Iowa, 4-H Club Band; the Cadwell Farm Bureau Orchestra, Dallas County, Iowa.

One hundred persons were "on the program."

The Conference divided into ten sections, which were really forums, for the discussion of special interests. All these meetings were well attended, and a large proportion of those present participated in the discussions. This conference was actually a large forum, discussing various aspects of "Rural Organization."

The recognition of "Master Farm Homemakers," a special feature held in coöperation with *The Farmer's Wife,* was well attended.

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RURAL ORGANIZATION
1929

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Hon. Frank O. Lowden

It is well that the American Country Life Association should take for its chief topic at this time the subject of rural organization. For the modern world in which we live is highly organized. In other fields coöperation in some form has largely taken the place of individual effort. The farmer is inclined to cling to independent action when all others have forsaken it.

Organization is a most powerful factor in human progress. Organization means the difference between the mob and a highly organized progressive society. The psychologists tell us that in an unorganized mass of men the primal instincts have full sway. Therefore, he who appeals most strongly to the passions of the unorganized mass influences them most. Reason, justice, mercy, all the finer qualities which civilization has evolved, are swept aside by the rising tide of the primitive passions of men. The voices of the scholar, of the humanitarian, of the moralist, and of the preacher, are drowned. Now, if we take this same unorganized mass and succeed in giving it a thorough organization, the wisest and best men within it rise to positions of leadership. The result is that its conduct, instead of inclining to the plane of the lowest, will tend to rise to the level of the highest. Through organization only does progress come.

In the modern world the farmer alone has been the last to realize the value of organization for its own sake. And therefore it happens that when the farmers in any community organize for any purpose, they soon find that there are other benefits derived in addition to the one that was their special aim. A finer community life, a widening of sympathies with their neighbors and associates, a broadening of their outlook upon the world, a new sense of the dignity and worth of their calling, an elevation of the ablest and worthiest among them to

places of leadership, are among the by-products of farmers' organizations.

It is a truism that farming is the most ancient of all occupations. It is, however, something more. It is a way of life. The farm is at once a home and a place of business. The business is a coöperative enterprise in which all the members of the family join. In this respect it does not differ from other pursuits of primitive times. For in the early days of commerce the dwelling house of the merchant was also his counting room. His wares were protected by the same roof that afforded shelter to him and his family. Early artificers in textiles, or wood, or iron, or in whatever they set their hands to, usually worked in the home. And so, when the learned professions first developed, the home and the office were one. With the coming of the machine age, however, the unity of home and place of business in all other occupations than agriculture disappeared. A new factor had entered upon the scene which profoundly altered human life in commerce, in industry and in the professions. No longer was the place of work also the home. No longer was the family so intimately concerned in the enterprise which brought them their daily bread. No longer was there the same occasion for mutual helpfulness that had existed in the simpler time. There were doubtless advantages in this separation of business and home. In the more complex civilization which followed the introduction of the machine, men could accomplish more in the great organizations which followed the machine. That there was a loss too, I think no one can deny. The solidarity of the family was decidedly shaken. There was a loss of independence which human nature seems to prize. The machine age, however, is here. It is bound to stay. Its advantages, I think, outweigh its disadvantages if we shall learn to adapt our social ideas to the transformation which it has wrought. This we have not done with great success.

"Industrial organization," says Professor J. H. Randall in his recent book, "Our Changing Civilization," "was to make *laissez-faire,* free competition, and the whole structure of the business man's social science the mere obstructive survivals of a bygone age."

I know of no modern thinker who would challenge this statement. And yet when men have attempted to devise some method

by which the farmers too might improve their economic status they have run up against these "obstructive survivals of a bygone age." We have reason to hope, however, that a new day has dawned in this respect. The mere creation of a federal farm board with large powers is in itself an admission that something can be done and should be done to bring agriculture nearer to equality with other industries. If the earlier contention were correct—the contention that prices were inevitably fixed by economic law superior to any man-made law—why any legislation? For legislation would be futile if that contention were correct. The law recently enacted may not accomplish all its sponsers hope. It may be found necessary later to broaden its scope. But those who supported it are forever stopped from asserting again that everything is as it must be under the operation of natural economic law.

The great industrial structure which has come with the machine overshadows all else. A decreasing proportion of the population all the time is required to supply the world with food and a very considerable part of the raw materials used in industry. There is still, however, a very large population upon the land. So far as we can see, this will always be true.

Two questions arise at this point: What kind of a farming population do we want? When we have answered this question we must then ask ourselves what we must do to keep them upon the farms. History discloses but two types of farmers: what we may call the peasant type and the yeoman type. Which of these do we desire? Up to the present time our farmers have been composed largly of the yeoman type—independent, self-respecting, demanding education for their children and social equality with all other classes. In the past the farms have largely furnished leadership for industry, for commerce, for the learned professions and for government in the United States. I know that there are men who think it no longer necessary to recruit the urban centers from rural life. They assert that such progress has been made in city civilization that the cities no longer need the country boys and girls to help carry on their work. I, for one, cannot accept this view. In the future, as in the past, if our civilization is to go forward, it must be with the aid of those who have felt the revivifying influence of the soil. Do we want our farms of the future to continue to make

this important contribution to our national life? Or shall we permit our farming population gradually to descend to the lowly status of peasant, content if they but wring a meager living from the soil? And, mind you, if we shall ever come to this, we shall have a peasant population on the land inferior to that in older countries where peasant farming is the rule. For, in those older countries the peasant population has inherited for centuries their place in the social scheme. Neither they nor their forbears were given an education and therefore a larger outlook upon life. They are for the most part sturdy people, possessed of a large degree of common sense, who so far have been willing to go on generation after generation living the life their fathers lived. Even deprived, as they are, of the benefits of schools, they have more than once furnished leadership for their country in some great crisis. If, however, our farm population shall ever decline to the peasant type, it will be composed largely of those who are mentally and physically unfit for other pursuits. If we desire a peasantry we did not begin soon enough. We should have started before we established free schools. Even, however, if we should wish to substitute the peasant for the American farmer, there is grave doubt about our ability to accomplish it. As I shall point out later, there is an awakening among the peasant population in all the world which is giving the statesmen of other countries grave concern.

If then, in obedience to traditions of America, we are to maintain the yeoman type of farmer upon the land, what must we do? In the first place, we must see to it that his pecuniary rewards are somewhat in keeping with the rewards that others enjoy. He does not ask for nor expect the dazzling returns which many industries receive in the modern world. There are other compensations not expressed in balance sheets which he deeply prizes.

A home, in the old sense of the word, is more easily achieved upon the farm than anywhere else. The husband and the wife and the children are all engaged in a common task. There is a mutuality of interest among the members of the family in the country which is impossible elsewhere in the complex civilization which the machine has brought. The family is more closely

knit because they are all engaged in the same enterprise—that of making a home.

And then there is the joy of conscious creative work which comes to him. One of the greatest disadvantages of modern industry is that the individual workman has lost this joy. The craftsman of a century and a half ago who found some compensation in the very thing he was doing has given way to the factory worker who does the same thing—a thing of no consequence—perhaps a hundred times an hour. One of the great problems of modern society is to find some compensation to the worker for the deadly monotony which seems to be his fate. The farmer alone has so far escaped this unhappy result of the machine age. The machine has come to the farmer, but so far only to lighten his labor and not to deprive him of its joy. He still must plan his work. He still sows and reaps. The machine age has not robbed him of his satisfaction in his work. It may have added to his problems, but at the same time it has broadened his interest.

The farmer too is a partner with nature. All his work goes for naught unless he collaborates with natural forces. Rain, sunshine, the wind, even the glory of the sky at night, have a meaning for him which the city man cannot feel. This close contact with and dependence upon nature may account for the deeper religious instinct which is found in the countryside. As one writer says: "The serious conflict in which religion is now engaged is not with science, but with our whole industrial civilization. Stand in the fields, look up to the hills, live amid the rain and the wind and the growing crops, and you naturally feel the religious emotions of humility and awe, reverence and dependence and thanksgiving. Stand in a humming factory; what has this mass of moving iron to do with religion Where is the very basis of the religious life, those deep emotional experiences from which springs trust in a higher being?"

There is something about the land which satisfies the cravings of the human heart as nothing else can. Else why does the city man seize every opportunity he can to escape his luxurious surroundings and go out to the countryside? The rich man with his costly car and the poor man with his Ford alike consider themselves happy if for a day they can leave the city far behind and enjoy the rustic beauty of the countryside.

Why otherwise this present tendency to exchange the apartment furnished with every comfort for a modest little cottage on the outskirts of a city where flowers bloom around the door?

For all these reasons is it not essential, in order to keep the farmer on the land, to give him the same financial returns which those in our most profitable industries receive? All he asks is a reasonable return upon his investment and wages for his management and labor approaching the wages industry pays.

We do need, however, to make country life more attractive than it has been in the past, and this defect is due, in part at least to the farmers themselves. In the past we have regarded the farm too much as a means to a financial competence which would enable us to escape the farm. We have thought of it too little as a permanent home. We have been too eager to add to our acres and too indifferent to add to the comfort and attractiveness of our home. We have looked forward to the time when we might retire from the farm rather than to spend our old age amidst its familiar scenes. The man in the city dreams of the time when he can fly from the cares and turmoils of the city to spend his declining years in the country. I can understand this inspiration of the city man. Why the farmer though should leave the farm after he has passed the meridian of life, and when he needs the healing hand of nature as never before is harder to comprehend. Perhaps because of pioneering hardships in the past this was a natural thing. Roads were impassable during a part of the year; schools were not adequate for the education of the children. The farmer seemed separated from all the rest of mankind. A genuine community life, particularly in the prairies of the middle west, was difficult to achieve. There was an immense amount of drudgery, both in the house and upon the farm. This condition, however, is undergoing a rapid change. The growing use of electricity, the numberless labor saving inventions we owe to industry, if we will only employ them, are gradually reducing this drudgery to the vanishing point. The telephone, the motor car and the radio are banishing the loneliness of the farmstead. Community life is becoming easier, if we but wish it, all the time. Farmers' organizations of a hundred different kinds are increasing in number and effectiveness and are creating new social and cultural and economic values for the farmer folks. We

are making possible a new and finer life in the country than we have ever known.

Rural America might become the most attractive portion of the globe. We have a rich soil. We have beauty of landscape. We have a farming population upon the whole surpassed nowhere I think in all the world. We have an increasing number in our metropolitan centers which demands more and more the products of the farm. I like to think of the countryside when we have realized all the possibilities that lie before us.

The family-sized farm, in my opinion, will still be the basis of our agriculture. I visited Denmark a few years ago. That little kingdom is the outstanding example of agricultural progress. There you will find the small farm of but a few acres, what they call the middle-sized farm, which means a farm of from 50 to 125 acres, and the large estates. The middle-sized farm, however, has come to be regarded as the backbone of Danish agriculture.

I like to think of the American farmer upon a farm of family size, who, instead of adding to his acres, concerns himself with making more productive the acres which he owns. I like to think of a commodious and comfortable home upon the farm, equipped with all the labor-saving devices of this scientific age. I picture to myself neat fences, with a well-kept lawn around the dwelling house. The Danish farmer upon the middle-sized farm of Denmark has achieved all this. And nature has been nothing like so prodigal with him as with the American farmer, for the soil in Denmark is inferior to our own. I should like to believe that the time will come when some agency, possibly something growing out of the consolidated rural school, shall do in some way for our rural population what the famous "Folk High Schools" have done for Denmark. These schools had their inspiration in Bishop Gruntvig during the first half of the last century. He visioned the possibilities of a rural life. He saw no reason why culture should be limited to the cities. He had faith that a more satisfying life could be had by those who lived in the open countryside than anywhere else. He believed in human happiness and he wanted to see the country so transformed as to insure happiness to those who lived there and so he championed the cause of a broader rural education. As a result of this agitation, the first "Folk High School" was

established about the middle of the last century. Others rapidly followed until now scattered over the little kingdom are sixty "Folk High Schools." These schools are not for the young alone. Men and women of all ages attend. There is an especially large attendance of men and women from 25 to 40 years of age. There Danish history and Danish literature are taught. Music is an important part of the curriculum. Lectures upon all subjects of interest to the human mind are given by men eminent in their several fields. Whatever embellishes life or adds to the joy of living finds a place in the "Folk High School." Agriculture is not specially taught. And yet out of the "Folk High Schools" of Denmark has come a large part of the agricultural leadership of today; indeed, of the leadership of the nation. For it soon developed in Denmark that culture and agriculture are so closely related that each reacts upon the other.

And then in this new rural America which I envisage there will be a place for the country church. For in the country men and women and children still believe in God.

If the farmers themselves are chargeable with neglect in not doing more to make country life attractive, the government too, in my opinion, has been remiss. It has not felt the same concern for agriculture that it has for commerce and industry. This perhaps was natural.

In the early days of the Republic our statesmen saw nothing but struggling industries, while no limit could be set to our agricultural wealth. There developed from this a policy of fostering industry while it was thought that the farms could take care of themselves. This attitude, wise at the time, has persisted, in my opinion, too long. The conditions I have above described have been reversed. Now the problem is not to bring industry up to equality with agriculture but to bring agriculture up to equality with industry.

I shall have time today to discuss but one of the things which the government can do to add to the attractiveness of country life. I refer to a reform in our method of taxation. The traditional method has made good roads and modern schools too heavy a load for the rural communities to bear. And no one can picture to his mind the ideal rural community without good roads and without adequate schools. The time-honored method

for supporting the one and building and maintaining the other has been by local taxation. With reference to roads, formerly this was an entirely logical procedure. For practically all roads were local in their use. It was a rare thing when anyone living outside of the township or county used the roads. There is now, however, a constantly decreasing number of purely local roads. As motor cars multiply, even the leafy lane in the remote country side is invaded by the owners of city cars. We are recognizing this changed condition by putting an increasing share of the cost of roads upon the federal and state governments. This is a wholesome tendency and should go on progressively, thus relieving in a measure the burden of taxation upon the farms.

We have not, however, been so wise with our country schools. The largest single item of taxation upon the farms is usually for the support of schools. And yet the country school has fallen far behind in the march of progress.

The population in the rural school district, due largely to improved farm machinery, has steadily declined. A few years ago, the state of Iowa enacted a law by which, when the number of pupils in any school district was reduced to five, the school should be closed and provision made for carrying those pupils to another school. Under that law five hundred schools in the state of Iowa alone have been closed. The country school, therefore, has lost its old vitality and its old importance in the life of the people. It is hard to make the school directors themselves believe that they need give much attention to so small a group. For the most part, the little schoolhouse which was once so dynamic a thing in the life of the community has fallen into neglect. It remains upon the hilltop as of yore. It too often, though, has an appearance of decrepitude and is usually a melancholy memorial of better days.

At the same time that the rural school has been undergoing this evolution, the schools in the towns and cities have constantly improved. Handsome and stately buildings have taken the place of the ruder structures of earlier years; the course of instruction has been greatly broadened; sanitation and recreation have been provided for. In other words, for a half century at least, the rural schools have been going backward, while town and city schools have been moving forward.

Educators have not been blind to this distressing contrast. In some sections of the country consolidated country schools have been established. These schools have marked a vast improvement in the life of the community. For farmers are as eager to give their children a good education as are those who live in the cities and towns. They have found, though, that the consolidated school, to be at all adequate, means a heavier tax burden than they can bear.

In the cities we recognize the need of giving equal educational opportunities to all the children of the city regardless of where they live. The children of the latest immigrant in the poorest section of the city are supplied with school buildings and school equipment and teachers equal in every respect to those which are given the children of the wealthiest portions of the city. The largest American cities cover an area of wide extent, and yet this principle applies throughout their midst. Why haven't we got to apply a similar principle upon a larger scale? Isn't it as essential to the welfare of the state that all the children within its borders should have a fitting education as it is to the people of the city that adequate schools should be furnished all their children? Especially since the future increase of the population in the urban centers will be largely recruited from the country schools. If to secure this, it is necessary for the state to take upon itself a larger share of the cost of rural schools, isn't it in the interest of the state to assume this burden?

And if the state, because of its widely scattered population, or for any other reason, is unable to give its children that education which a self-governing nation requires if it is to endure, is there any reason why the federal government should not grant aid to those states?

In our national life, the economic unit has continuously grown larger until it now embraces the country as a whole. In early days the local community was largely a self-sufficing economic unit. In the main, it supplied its own needs. Its commerce with the outer world was slight. Its economic life has broadened continuously ever since. What was at first of local concern became the larger concern of the state. Today there is not a hamlet so remote that its economic life is not intertwined with that of the great metropolises of the land. This fact ac-

counts for and justifies the growing tendency of the states to supplement local revenues by state grants. The logic of the situation requires the application of the same principle to government grants of aid to the states. This would not be in derogation of state rights and state duties, but would be only a simple recognition of economic fact.

In other countries, if I am correctly informed, the revenue, a portion of which is later redistributed among the local subdivisions, is being raised more and more by the central governments, and less and less by the local governments; this partly because of superior administration by the central government, but largely because other governments have recognized the inevitable economic unity of the country as a whole.

The old isolation of the farm in a sense has been broken down by the telephone, the automobile and the radio. Communication and interchange of visits between those who live in the country and those who live in the city are becoming more frequent all the time. The farmer knows how the city man lives. The farmer's wife knows the conveniences that the housewife in the city enjoys. The farmer and his wife and their children know of the superiority of the city school over the country school. The time, therefore, has come when we must strive to equalize conditions of living upon the farm and in the towns and cities. We shall be unable much longer to maintain a double standard of living in the United States, as we have in recent years. If the inequalities which now exist shall continue, we shall not much longer be able to keep the normal boys and girls upon the farm. The trek cityward is already under way. If it shall go on as rapidly as it has in the last few years, the next generation will witness a farm population largely composed of the physically and mentally unfit. I am not disturbed about the movement cityward of our country folks, but I am tremendously concerned that this migration should not drain our countryside of the stalwart young men and women who prefer life on the farm but who are drawn to the cities because they cannot secure a fair reward for their efforts upon the farm. In the future, when the problem is not of surplus but of deficit of farm products, these stalwart men and women will be needed on the farm if we are to feed, at a

reasonable cost, the constantly increasing population in our metropolitan centers.

Nor is this demand upon the part of the rural population for a standard of living approaching that of other classes limited to the United States. The agricultural problem is world-wide in extent. Industrialism is rapidly extending itself throughout the civilized world. Industrialization means for those employed in industry a higher standard of living than has satisfied the peasant farmers of the past. This creates unrest and discontent throughout the rural portions of the globe.

It is often said that the food of the world has always been produced by farmers of the peasant type, who are content to live upon the land with a lower standard of living than elsewhere obtains. There is much truth in this. But when men infer, as they sometimes do, that this is the lot of the farmer for all the future, I think they are wrong. For in recent years new forces have come into existence which threaten to change this lowly status of the farming folks.

I have mentioned industrialization. Another force of which we have taken little note is operating strongly all around the earth. Recently I visited the Near East. I spent some time in Egypt, Palestine and Greece. I found in all those countries an irresistible demand on the part of the masses for education. So insistent was this demand that even where the governments were fearful of the consequences, they were powerless to deny it. And so the governments of those countries today are yielding to this demand, and education is proceeding rapidly.

The Fellahin of Egypt have been farming as their fathers farmed for six thousand years. The rude plow they use is an exact copy of plows that are pictured in tombs recently uncovered, dating back two thousand years before the birth of Christ. These humble, illiterate tillers of the soil have been content during all these centuries to travel the same path their fathers trod. In recent years, however, this ancient slumber has been broken by the dreams of a larger life. They are demanding education, and they are receiving it in an ever-increasing degree. And so in Palestine. And so in Greece. And so, I was told, in all the lands in that portion of the world.

The great problem now confronting the statesmen of those countries is to hold their farmers upon the land. As they be-

come educated they leave the farm for the cities, where they hope for larger rewards in industry or in the civil service of the nation. In Italy, where Mussolini's power is supreme, the government has gone to the extent of restraining farmers from leaving their farms for the city unless they can give a reason satisfactory to the government. Without exception, in all the countries I visited, leading statesmen pronounced the agrarian problem the greatest problem they had to meet.

I wondered how it was in the Far East countries like China and India. And so, upon my return home, I began an investigation and I learned that a similar movement was under way amidst the teeming populations of those far-off lands. One young Chinese scholar alone, without aid from the government, has mustered five million of the rural population in schools, though these millions had never seen a school before.

It is true that for the most part the world has been fed by farmers of the inferior peasant type. That this will continue long, there is the gravest reason to doubt.

Population is increasing rapidly throughout the earth, largely owing to the discoveries of medical and sanitary science. At the same time, the fertility of the soil almost everywhere is being exhausted at a rapid rate. The problem of the future is to feed the multiplying millions. I am wondering if the time is not fast approaching when the world will have to give a better way of life to those who supply them with their daily needs. There was a time, not far distant, when men thought of labor as a commodity, to be bought and sold in the open market, with an unavoidable tendency towards lower wages if the supply exceeded the demand. And they thought, too, that the lower the wages the larger the profits they would receive. How different the present fact! Real wages in industry, not only in this country, but generally, are higher than they ever were before. And, contrary to their expectations, industrial leaders are attributing in part the prosperity they have enjoyed in recent years to the more generous wages labor is receiving. Isn't it possible that a similar revolution is pending in agriculture? Isn't it probable, too, that if agriculture were prosperous throughout the world, it would enhance the prosperity of all?

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE TO RURAL ORGANIZATION

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

A. R. Mann, *Cornell University*

The purpose of this statement is not to present the personal ideas of its author but to assemble and correlate the ideas presented throughout the program which seem either to represent the approximate consensus of opinion of those assembled in the sectional groups or to be significant for further thought or action in dealing with an organized advance in agriculture and country life. It is specifically to be noted that these ideas have not been the subject of any formal action by this conference; that they are not, therefore, official findings for which the conference as a whole or the American Country Life Association are finally responsible. The conference has been an open forum on rural organization for the purpose of exchanging ideas and clarifying thinking, and not for the passing of resolutions or formal recommendations.

Nor, is this summary, prepared as it was entirely under the stress of the convention, to be regarded as in any degree an adequate evaluation of the thoughts presented or a complete record of the really significant contributions. It had finally to be prepared by one person, myself, dependent very largely on brief reports from the secretaries of the several sections, and lacking the full background of the discussion in each section. Uncommonly efficient, coöperative and competent as these secretaries were, mine has been a well-nigh impossible undertaking in this brief time because of the great diversity of subjects covered in the ten sectional meetings.

By the term "contributions" as here used, we have in mind not so much new ideas and methods, as progress in clarity of thinking, in integration of effort, in refinement of methods of work in advancement toward a goal. What, then, are some of these contributions?

1. The fact of this convention in itself, in the great agricultural basin of the United States, devoted to the very timely theme of rural organization, has called wide public attention in effective manner to the immediate need of advance in the organization of farm men and women for progress in country life. For those in attendance it has yielded not only an increased impetus, but a sounder basis in knowledge as to objectives to be attained and the methods to be employed. In this conference, to a greater degree than in preceding conferences of this association, have the contributions of practical experience of many special interest groups and activities had predominant place. Only the full conference report, later to be published, can record and evaluate the many methods employed as presented at these sessions.

To a greater extent than ever before this conference has enabled the homemaker and the farmer to join with the professional servants of country people in talking things over. It has shown that both groups speak the same language and are bound by common objectives in their work for rural America.

2. The life of every organism is conditioned by its structure and its function, or processes. This convention has revealed what is taking place in the structure and the function of rural organization.

On its structural side there is an apparent trend toward a common pattern among the organizations working in the rural field. A comparison of the reports presented here yields the following elements which are becoming increasingly common in the structural patterns of the several special interest groups: (1) at the bottom, the organization of the community interest in the special field, with a central executive committee or council; under this central committee, a series of special committees to represent and foster the several major interests of the community in this aspect of its life; (2) the association of these local structural or organizational units in a county or sectional organization, again with its series of specialized committees, to represent the common interests of this larger unit in a coördinated program; (3) the further association of these county or sectional units of organization into a state organization, and the states into a national organization, these latter, in turn, being structurally of the same general pattern as each of the lower units on which it rests.

On the functional side, this convention has emphasized time and again certain common elements. First, there must be an assembling of the facts—what is the existing situation in each field under consideration. There must be a factual basis, secured by score card, survey, committee, or other device, as a prerequisite for the formulation of a program. Next, the program of progress is to be set up. Then the machinery to carry out each part is thrown into action, with the necessary checks and revisions to keep the work vitalized. Furthermore, there appears to be, in most of the special interest organizations, an effort to obtain maximum participation of the people themselves as voluntary workers, rather than to use paid specialists in doing the work, although the latter have definitely their place where technical and professional services are required.

3. *Adult Education.* The section on adult education finds farm men and women not only responsive to the technical educational programs, but ready as well for a broadened program which goes beyond the present craft or technical education into the wider cultural interests. The best prospect of enlarging the adult educational opportunity for rural America lies at present in the improvement of the cultural services of existing agencies, including the extension service. Furthermore, the extension of library facilities is a pressing need and should be actively fostered, preferably using the county as the unit for library organization.

From extension education among farmers there results a by-product equal in importance with the first product, namely, the emergence of qualified, intelligent leadership. The notable development among farm women, the outstanding achievements of individuals growing up through the 4-H club movement, as well as the conspicuously competent leadership appearing among farmers, attest the significance of this by-product of general extension education.

4. *Rural School Section.* The rural school section finds that the schools should establish closer relations with their public and make greater use of existing organizations. Two types of problems come to the fore: one, the immediate physical and educational needs of the school; the other, the extra curricular activities. In both of these, local organizations can assist. Organizations of school men, of which there is a growing number

on a local, county, or state basis, may foster coöperation among rural schools with respect to extra-curricular activities, the coöperative purchase of supplies, provision of recreational facilities, and the like. Such associated efforts are needed for the effective promotion of athletic, speaking and musical contests, coöperative educational programs, and community events. Emphasis is again given to the need for a larger unit than the prevailing district as the basis for rural school organization.

Attention has been drawn to a matter calling for most thorough consideration in the future, namely the possible desirability of federal aid for the improvement of rural schools and the rural teaching personnel. Considerations of social justice and the broader interests of national integrity place this question on the calendar.

5. *Religious Organizations.* Some of the values of rural life to be conserved through religious service include faith in God, fostered in harmony with the enlarged conception of the universe through scientific discoveries; realization by farmers of the social need, and that individual salvation should lead toward social salvation in the family and the community; the careful stewardship of the gifts of nature. The principal service of the rural church remains spiritual, but the vital church will relate itself to the larger plans for community organization and the promotion of a definite country life program. Narrow denominationalism must yield to the brotherhood of men in Christ. Emphasis on a community religious movement should have precedence over emphasis on the community church.

In many rural areas, the larger parish plan, involving coöperative church association, should gain acceptance. The creation of a larger parish council makes possible the development of a united program upon the basis of knowledge as to actual needs. An essentially new note is struck in the emphasis on the larger, coöperatively organized parish, with the opportunities it affords for the organization of a program of religious education and for the association of various groups in local programs of progress.

6. *Health and Social Welfare.* The fundamental basis of any permanently successful program of rural social and health work is in the creation of a general appreciation of their practical importance, through those organizations in which rural people actively participate. This can best be accomplished by

getting local organizations to investigate the health and social conditions of their own communities.

Generous state aid was advocated for county health programs, including public health nurses, full-time county health officers, and county hospitals.

The need for professional social work in the rural community has passed the experimental stage. The need for well-qualified, well-equipped rural social workers has been demonstrated. Ultimately there should be a county Board of Public Welfare to direct all public assistance to the dependent, defective, and delinquent, whether children or adults, with professionally trained social workers to carry out its policies.

In both social and health work the county is the most practical and efficient administrative unit, and should supersede the township or smaller unit. For some purposes several counties may find it advantageous to coöperate in the support of institutions which can be more efficiently and economically administered with a larger volume of business.

With the increasing number of organizations interested or engaged in rural social and health work, it is essential that they shall be brought together in county conferences so that their leaders may have a better understanding of what each is doing and may develop a united support for a practical program to improve the social and health conditions of their communities.

7. *Rural Landscaping and Recreation.* The local rural community must come to realize that living an enriched life is an essential object of farm folk. A beautiful and functionally useful farmstead grounds offers a fit setting in which to enjoy many forms of home recreation and wholesome relaxation from daily toil. The movement for rural home beautification would be accelerated if greater coöperation toward this end were effected between existing local organizations, such as the Grange, the Farmers' Union, the Farm Bureau, churches, community clubs, and the like. Local surveys to establish the facts and the opportunities would provide the basis for a comprehensive effort to establish a more beautiful rural environment, combined with facilities for home or community recreation. A consideration of immediate importance is the conservation of natural beauty spots in any locality and making them available for the recreational enjoyment of the people.

If beautification of rural districts is to progress, county-wide or regional planning should be undertaken. Urban and semi-urban or rural districts, or trade areas, should combine to perfect plans for the systematic, orderly, and appropriate beautification of the area, which will yield results both monetary and in wholesome, enriched living.

8. *The Student Section.* Discussions participated in pointed to the need for increased attention on the typical college campus to the human aspects and the organization of farm life. A recent limited canvass conducted by the American Country Life Association among 600 institutions shows only 2 in 5 colleges and universities having college student clubs that are endeavoring to further country life interests.

Clubs of different kinds, such as collegiate country life and 4-H clubs and student granges, on college campuses afford one of the best means of preserving and creating interest in country life, of drawing attention to country life, of studying the essentials of good rural leadership, and of developing higher standards of farm life.

9. *Urban-Rural Relations.* The progress which has been made in promoting tangible coöperation between the town or city and the surrounding countryside should be sustained and more systematic attention be given to the problems and the opportunities which lie in this area of human relationships. The foundation must gradually be laid in fuller mutual understandings; "understanding" is the important agent essential to the production of the desired changes. The method of fostering understanding is contact, conference, acquaintance, and finally joint participation in undertakings which concern both rural and urban people. Some suggested steps in the process include acceptance by farmers of membership in town and city service organizations, of city business men in farmers' organizations, of systematically interesting city organizaations in the rural program, making clear how farmers' business coöperatives help the broader interests of the trading center, and the like.

The country life problem is no longer an isolated problem but requires adjusting relations between the needs of country life and the services and cultural facilities of the neighboring town or city. While urbanization is not desired and rural values are to be conserved, there is pronounced need that farmers shall

more fully utilize whatever cultural facilities the towns afford, and that the towns shall consciously increase their interest in and service to their surrounding trading area.

From this sectional conference group comes the concrete suggestion that steps be taken in all the states to set up State Planning Commissions which shall be charged with the formulation and advancement of long-time programs intended to develop and coördinate selected broad phases of both rural and urban life.

10. *Economic Coöperation.* The conference discussions on this topic voiced the fact that farmers are not essentially interested in the theoretical or emotional aspects of business coöperation but in coöperation as a tool to help them toward a larger economic reward. Financial benefit is the major object. That the farmer should actively participate in such coöperative associations as are needed to handle effectively the farm business needs which concern him was given general acceptance. General approval of the policies thus far announced by the Federal Farm Board was evident and the attitude taken that the Board should receive sympathetic and active coöperation in testing to the full the values in the program of economic coöperation which the Agricultural Marketing Act proposes.

The improvement of the economic status of farmers will come only as a result of a common understanding of the forces which determine the distribution of wealth, the development of farm leaders devoted to the cause, and a resulting unity of purpose and action on the part of farm people in their farm planning, in their market activities, in their home and community standards of living, and in the exercise of their privileges as citizens. While government can help in the realization of these objectives, coöperative associations and the general farm organizations may play a leading part in this field of action.

Agriculture needs a sales department to find new and profitable markets. Organization has taken over every other industry. The individual farmer remains in too large measure exposed to unequal competition in his business dealings. Economic organization is one of the first and direct steps to be taken by farmers in the interest of equality in business dealings. By the sacrifice of some of his individual rights, the individual gains a greater freedom. Thus only can farmers themselves

effectively help in solving the nation-wide problem of a just distribution of the national income among those who produce it.

11. *Government and Taxation.* This conference group finds that rural folks have advocated numerous reforms for the nation but have lagged behind all other political units in reforming their own local governmental machinery. Study is called for of the varied systems of county and local government in the several states in order to get a sound basis for evaluating both the economic and the social efficiency of the various existing forms, as viewed from the standpoint of size of the political units, when measured by population, area, and wealth, the efficient size for a county board, the place of established civil service procedures in local government, the objects to which local government give or may appropriately give attention, and the like. That local government should receive thorough going, critical study is a clear pronouncement of this conference.

Similarly, the methods of taxation and of the collection of taxes are matters which should be pressed for thorough reconsideration. Farmers generally throughout the nation have reached, if not exceeded, their tax-bearing capacity under economic conditions as now existing and as they have existed for some time. Here, too, a new factual basis must be laid. What are the functions which the people expect the public authorities to provide out of tax incomes; what political unit can best perform and finance the functions so determined; what is the most equitable means of raising the tax moneys, alike with respect to local, state, and national revenues? Inasmuch as public expenditures may be expected gradually to increase rather than to decrease, the central issue is as to how the citizen is to receive a better return from public expenditures, and what economies may be instituted which will release some of the existing revenues to provide in part for the further responsibilities which the growth in population and in social demand will inevitably impose. These considerations must go hand in hand with the needed reform in public policy as to the relative burden, the various sources of tax funds should bear. Again the need for a wider tax base for the maintenance of certain rural social institutions, notably the public schools and health and hospital facilities, perhaps comparable with the base of taxation for public highways, was accented.

12. *General Farm Organization.* Rural society is undergoing significant changes. The neighborhood no longer holds farmers to the restricted contacts of former days. Farm families are merging with the more complex life of all society. As Governor Lowden stated in his opening address, when farmers in any community organize for any purpose, they soon find that there are other benefits derived in addition to the one that was their special aim. A finer community life, a widening of sympathies with their neighbors and associates, a broadening of their outlook upon the world, a new sense of the dignity and worth of their calling, an elevation of the worthiest leadership, are among the by-products.

13. *A Rural Life Program Needed.* This conference has again focussed attention on the need for a clearly formulated and adequate country life program. If such a program is to lay any claim to adequacy, it must grow out of, match, and be appropriate to the essential life interests of the individual farm man and woman. It must aim to secure, for those who live on the land, a steadily increasing aggregate and a juster proportion of the higher levels of wealth, health, knowledge, beauty, sociability, and righteousness which characterize American progress and which we have come to associate with superior personal well-being. For twelve years these annual association meetings have been sowing the seed of such a comprehensive concept, the need for its formulation in concrete, practical terms, and the association of all the power of rural organization represented in the many special interest groups, in a deliberate and aggressive forward movement for its accomplishment.

The development of unity of action by rural people comparable to that in other occupations is impossible without a program. Every rural region in America needs a program, with the better life as the objective. The program should include production, distribution, and life. The present need is a plan of action and a widespread impulse on the part of rural people to secure for themselves the physical and the psychic elements of a satisfying life. The essential elements of such a program have been made clear in this and former conventions of the American Country Life Association. Any program for building a finer rural civilization must center about the securing of

better incomes for farm people and the utilization of income in securing the basic conditions of a healthful, wholesome, cultured life. Who will lead the way in each community?

Perhaps the significant utterances and viewpoints of this conference can be finally summarized in two brief statements. One is the interdependence of the individual and the group, expressed in those famous lines of Kipling:

"Now this is the law of the jungle—as old and as true as the sky;
And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the wolf that shall break it must die.
As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk the law runneth forward and back—
For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."

The other is those significant words of Dr. H. C. Taylor at the opening of this convention: 'Efficiency in production; justice in distribution; success in living—these three; and the greatest of these is success in living."

THE GOVERNMENT'S FARM PROGRAM

ARTHUR M. HYDE

Secretary of Agriculture

The problems of agriculture are many and perplexing. There is challenge in the mere approach to its problems. Agriculture has inherent difficulties which cannot be overcome by the individual farmer acting alone. The production line of agriculture, consisting of small production units, is stretched entirely across the continent and from the Lakes to the Gulf. It is divided into six million producing plants, each managed by that most independent and individualistic of all industrial captains, the American farmer. Agriculture is not one industry. It is as many industries as there are agricultural commodities. Each commodity has its own separate set of problems. Competition between commodities is keen.

The farmer competes not alone with foreign standards of wages and living, but with different domestic standards as well. The most favored area is in competition with all other sections of our own country, and each area, through its production, contributes to the surplus which so often and so seriously depresses the price for all.

The proper utilization of land is one of the most important elements in farm problems. Our national heritage covers 1,903,000,000 acres. Of this, 505,000,000 are classed as improved farm lands, capable of producing crops. Only about 350,000,000 acres are actually producing crops. On these 350,000,000 acres American farmers are annually producing vast stores of foodstuffs, which supply the demands of our own people and overrun into the markets of the world.

It is hardly too much to say that American farmers could, by using intensive methods on the whole 505,000,000 available acres of farm lands, double this crop. This would disastrously break the price. The threat of possible surpluses too great to handle is always present.

There are those who like to jibe at agriculture on the ground

that farmers are impervious to change. We still farm, they say, as our grandfathers did. If they speak of the production side of agriculture, nothing is further from the truth. Agriculture has made great strides in adapting the discoveries of biologists, scientists and inventors. Contrast the beef animal of the show ring with the best beef animal our great-grandfather possessed. Measure the milk production of our best dairy cows against those of sixty years ago. Consider the changes in seed, in fertilization, and in all the various applications of pure science. Examine the operation of a mechanized farm and compare it with the farms of our granddads.

Contemplate, for one instance, the combine. This invention has revolutionized wheat farming, brought vast acres into cultivation, has reduced the labor costs of production and precipitated the wheat crop of America into the market in a vast ungovernable torrent which has choked elevators, filled thousands of railway cars, embargoed ports, and well nigh broken down the marketing machinery of the country. So far from being static, agriculture has accepted the findings of biologists, adapted the discoveries of inventors, and kept pace with progress.

The distribution of farm products is to a large extent wasteful and inefficient. The markets for agricultural products are, with few exceptions, "buyers" markets. What chance of success would the manufacturer of automobiles, or of cash registers, or of any other industrial product have, if this output had to sell at the factory door to the best bidder, or had to pass through many middlemen before it reached the consumer? Distress, price cutting and waste would inevitably result. And yet, with some few exceptions, this is exactly what happens to farm products.

The progress of many commodities from the producer to the consumer is disorderly and wasteful. An enormous amount of cross hauling takes place. Commodities do not flow evenly to points of consumption. There is a glut in one market and a dearth in another. There is entirely an inadequate grading and standardizing of certain commodities, with the result of uncertainty in prices and opportunity for advantage over the producer and for speculation against the consumer. There is an inadequate development of processing for disposal of occa-

sional surpluses of many commodities into by-products. There are, in fact, great wastes in the whole chain of distribution which are a tax on both the producer and the consumer. Agriculture needs a sales department to help find new markets, to distribute the flow of commodities and to assure to the producer a square deal on his product.

The modern organization of business and industry has complicated and enlarged the problems of agriculture. Organization has taken over every industry except agriculture. Competition in industry is no longer between individuals, but between organizations. Labor is organized. Agriculture alone interposes against the competitions of powerful organizations the bared breasts of its individual producers.

Those six million farmers are the most efficient farmers on earth. In numbers they are one-twentieth of the world's farmers, but they produce two-thirds of the world's corn, three-fifths of the world's cotton, one-half of its tobacco, one-third of its hogs, one-third of its poultry, one-fourth of its oats, one-fifth of its wheat, one-seventh of its cattle and one-tenth of its sheep. Their other contributions, while small in percentage of the world's totals, yet bulk large in the feeding of their own nation. In the face of a declining farm population and an increasing urban population, American agriculture has supplied the nation's needs and produced a vast surplus of commodities in addition.

We Americans are at once the most individualistic human beings on earth and the greatest believers in organization. And, why not? It has coördinated the efforts of thousands of producers and welded them into a resistless force. It has taken its toll from us in certain attributes, but it has given us homes, a high standard of living, schools which are models of efficiency, and an industrial development which is the envy of the world. The perpetual paradox of organization is that, by the sacrifice of some of his personal rights, the individual finds a greater freedom.

Given a multitude of producing plants, a production too large for the demands of the market, and an annual surplus so great as to seriously depress the price, industry would meet the problem by mergers. Such has been the record. But you cannot merge six million farms. We have no desire to do so.

The farm family is a social unit of value so great as to demand its preservation. Its independence, its compactness, its ideals, must be maintained, but in maintaining them we must remember that we are preserving a small producing unit in a society in which all other forms of production are organized into large units. The farmer must have help, not only to reduce the competition within his own industry, but to see that the social, economic and industrial adjustments and combinations which are going on all about him do not bear too heavily upon him.

The answer to these problems is not going to be found "in the back of the book," nor in any single scheme of statecraft. No single answer exists because the problems presented are not single. The farm problem is not one problem, but scores of problems grouped about each of a score of different farm commodities.

The farmer then has two alternatives. He can depend on private agencies to market his products, or he can develop his own coöperative marketing system operated in his own interest, which by combining the products of many farm units can exert an appreciable influence in the market, and through knowledge of supplies and demands can deal in the light of the same facts as the buyer. He can continue to sell on a "buyers" market, or he can create a "sellers" market. There can be but one choice of these alternatives.

If agriculture were well organized, it could standardize its products, control and distribute their flow to the consumer; eliminate much of the waste duplication and inefficiency of the marketing system. Thus the farmer could approximate the position of industry. By the long arm of his own organization, the farmer could make himself felt beyond his own line fences and in the markets of the world. Through his organization, the farmer could get information as to commodity supplies, could help to bring his production within the limits of demand. By organization the farmer can control his own industry, reëstablish the independence of his calling, win his own place in the sun of economic equality, and having won it, hold it against all the changing vicissitudes of the future.

The mere contemplation of these elements in farm problems compels the conclusion that the organization of agriculture is one of the first and most important steps to be taken in the

direction of economic equality. Most farm problems are economic in their nature and must be answered with economic solutions. Many of these problems cannot be foreseen. Many others have not been clearly understood. For these reasons, the statesmanship of Herbert Hoover long ago conceived the idea of creating a farm instrumentality to deal with farm problems as they arise.

To assist in the organization of agriculture, to take the problems of the various farm commodities out of the realm of politics and to meet them in the realm of economics, to set up an authoritative tribunal which shall study each separate problem, and afford financial assistance when necessary—this is the aim and purpose of the Agricultural Marketing Act.

In seeking solutions of farm questions, the Board is to a large extent blazing new trails. The elements of any special problems, and the circumstances under which the Board will be called upon to act, cannot be foreseen. Wide latitude of power and of discretion is therefore necessary. The Act makes no attempt to describe or limit the powers of the Board, save only to direct that the Board shall deal only with the farmer-owned and the farmer-controlled organizations. The heart of the plan is to set up the instrumentality and to arm it with the power, the money and the discretion to deal with farm conditions, organizations, commodities and problems as they arise. This is the vital feature of the plan. All the rest is detail.

Agriculture itself appointed the Federal Farm Board. It is true that the President named them, but agriculture selected them. At the request of the President, I sent out several hundred telegrams to farm organizations, farm papers, farm leaders all over the country asking them to suggest the right men to serve the major divisions of agriculture upon the Board. Thus was conducted a great referendum of agriculture upon the membership of the Board. The results of that referendum or election were accepted, and the men thus selected were named. Thus it comes about that agriculture has a Farm Relief Board of its own choosing.

The Board does not buy or sell. It has no right to engage in business. Its main job is to foster and to encourage the organization of agriculture, to finance farmer-owned and farmer-controlled coöperatives and stabilization corporations. The

coöperatives and the stabilization corporations have all the powers granted to them by their state charters, and may buy, sell, process or store farm commodities. In general they have all the powers enjoyed by business or industrial corporations to engage in such activities as are necessary or proper to their business.

The Board serves in exactly the same capacity as a board of directors serves in the organization and management of a great business or industry. It supervises the organization of the business, encourages its development along economic lines, sits in collective consideration on its problems, allocates its money to the project or program necessary to its prosperity. This plain, simple, practical plan has been enacted into law, the funds have been provided, the Board is ready to supervise the job.

The Board is authorized to study and make reports on the following subjects: Land utilization, the reduction of acreage of unprofitable marginal lands in cultivation, methods of expanding markets at home and abroad, methods of developing by-products from farm commodities, and new uses for such products, transportation conditions and their effect upon agriculture.

There is promise of results valuable to agriculture in every one of these fields. The Department of Agriculture has already made considerable progress and analysis of them, and is still prosecuting its study. The information it has is immediately available for the Board.

I wish that time permitted a discussion of these subjects. In view of the over-expansion of our agricultural plant, the question of land use is a subject of major importance. There are millions of acres, which because of location or quality or of other economic factors, cannot be cultivated at a profit. They are farmed only at the terrific cost of declining standards of education and living.

In face of a disastrous surplus, the bringing under cultivation of new areas, until such time as they may be needed, would not be profitable to such new areas, and would further depress the living standard of areas already under cultivation.

There is nothing economically sound or socially desirable about producing crops to sell at less than the cost of producing

them. Profit not production will determine the farm standard of living. We seek a rising tide of well-being. The desideratum is not more crops, or less crops, but a higher living standard and broader opportunities on the farm.

Other subjects are embraced in the federal farm program. Taxation, waterways, reducing production costs, tariffs—here also are fruitful fields.

The farmer is entitled to the domestic market. The farmer also needs the flexible tariff provision with power vested in the President to make changes upon the recommendation of the Tariff Commission. The rapidly changing economic conditions of modern times have made it, and will continue to make it of peculiar value to agriculture.

Out of 33 increases made in tariff schedules under the flexible provision, 13 have been on farm products, 12 on chemicals, 4 on earthenware and glass, and the rest scattered. Wheat, flour, butter, cheese, cherries, onions, peanuts, eggs, flaxseed, milk and cream are the agricultural products upon which the tariff has been increased. It is not too much to say that increases made under the flexible provision saved the dairy industry from disaster.

In 1922, agriculture was told to write its own schedules. These rates proved to be too low. Only by virtue of the flexible provision could they be changed. Congress refused to entertain changes in butter and flaxseed rates. The present session of Congress proves the impossibility of revising a few schedules without a bitter fight. Both on experience and expectation, agriculture should demand the retention of the flexible tariff provision as embodied in the house bill.

I have tried to point out some of the parts of the Federal Farm Program. I am aware that other friends of agriculture have other ideas, and other programs. I am aware that many thinkers are engrossed in the farm problems, and that in council there is vision.

Nevertheless, I urge all friends of agriculture to concentrate their efforts behind the Federal Farm Board. The job of organizing agriculture is fundamental to any program. I do not minimize any other plan, but I submit that the organization of American agriculture is the first step toward success, no matter what the program.

The job of organization is big enough and difficult enough if we all work at it. This plan has the advantage over any other plan that has been enacted into law. It may go too far to suit some thinkers on the subject. It may not go far enough to suit others. But it is now the law. It does lead somewhere. It will accomplish something. That somewhere and that something is the creation of the farmer's own organizations through which he can make himself felt in the markets of the world.

The present law will be changed. Such is the record of laws creating new institutions, they are traveling an uncharted course. We shall make mistakes, we shall try to guide each succeeding step by the knowledge gained from the last one. We shall recommend changes as rapidly as experience may prove them to be desirable, but, I insist, no matter what the changes, no matter if another and different plan is finally adopted, the organization of agriculture is the first and the elemental need.

We shall have opposition enough without being compelled to contend with diversity of action and dissension in the ranks of the friends of agriculture. Let no one fondly imagine that there is no opposition to this law. I believe that all agencies of agricultural distribution which renders a worth while service at a reasonable charge will continue to be useful and profitable. But some, not so situated, will be compelled to readjust themselves. Already there arises a chorus of doubt and objection from those who fear their business may be affected. That chorus will grow louder and the opposition stronger. I hope we may have the support of those who claim to be the friends of agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF RURAL ORGANIZATION

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD

It is now nearly forty years since I was asked to become the editor and manager of a paper owned by the Michigan State Grange. I was just out of college and knew nothing about the Grange, although even at that time it had been in existence for nearly a quarter of a century. I knew nothing about rural organization, indeed I doubt if I heard the words while taking a four year agricultural college course. But in the Grange I, of course, kept hearing about "organization." At that time it meant chiefly a general association of farmers, like the Grange itself.

Today rural organization means much more than that. We now think of organization as the means by which many different people and groups of people are brought into some sort of coöperative activity to accomplish certain definite purposes or programs. It is a process of unifying, correlating, integrating different forces or agencies in order better to meet a situation, or, as we say, solve some problem. It may apply to the farm, the farm home, the community, the country, state, nation or to a commodity as well as to a school or a farmers' association. Our present topic assumes it can be applied internationally.

The importance of organization does not need lengthy discussion in a conference of this sort. We see how it works in our great industries. They have secured mass production, standardized their product, adopted high pressure salesmanship, —but underneath it all is organization.

I saw a map the other day that showed a plan for the area stretching out 40 or 50 miles in every direction from the City Hall of New York City. It is believed that by the year 2000, twenty-five million people will be living in that area, and it is hoped that this plan will assist in the development of transportation, home building, public utilities and all the other intricate equipment of a modern city so that this vast population will be served in the best fashion. This again is organization.

This organization of vast industries and of populous cities means that we are rapidly building not only in this country but all over the world, a powerful industrial and urban civilization. So true is this that the question at once arises, can we build alongside of this civilization of the city, a rural civilization that is also adequate to meet the material, the intellectual, and the spiritual needs of our rural people?

I think it can be done, but it is a huge task and must not be taken lightly. To do it we must utilize all available forces. We must approach the problems in scientific fashion and gain accurate knowledge about them. The government must give particular attention to the question. Indeed I believe agriculture should be a preferred industry and that the first question rather than the last question asked about any legislative bill, is how will it affect the farmers. We must have the best possible educational facilities for rural youths, as well as a highly developed system of continuing education for adults. I am also firmly of the conviction that no civilization rural or urban, will be adequate unless it is permeated with the spirit of the Man of Galilee. It must be religious.

But undergirding all of these forces must be organization. It alone will secure their coöperation for the big end of getting and keeping the right sort of rural civilization.

Many tributes have been paid in these days together here to Henry C. Wallace. But I think one of the most profound things he said has not so far been mentioned. Early in his career as Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Wallace declared that the time had come when the American farmer, in his own interest, should take into account the agriculture of the rest of the world. How completely true this is. We are learning it more fully every year.

I recently went over a list of associations in the agricultural field, that are international in character. There were thirty-five of them and some have sprung up since. More than half of them were associations of agricultural scientists. But there were also associations of farmers. Thus the need of considering the international aspects of rural organization is already attested, and for the same reasons that have led to the holding of a world economic conference at Geneva, in which agriculture as well as industry and commerce were recognized; to the activi-

ties of the great International Labor office also in Geneva; to the work of the International Chamber of Commerce; the founding of a world bank; to the existence of several international associations or institutes of education. A year and a half ago I attended the most tremendous convention that I was ever in, held in Jerusalem under the auspices of the International Missionary Council, which represented the interests of the 400 mission boards of the world. The greatest single outcome of the conference was the conviction that there is such a thing as a world Christian enterprise—a great international endeavor to make all civilization Christian.

There are objections of course that will be raised to the feasibility of international organization in rural affairs. I shall mention two. First of all it will be said that there are such wide differences between the farmers of America and the farmers of other countries. Well there are wide differences. But the more I go about the world and reflect upon what I see in agriculture and rural life, the more I am convinced that the likenesses are greater than the differences. At bottom the farmer's problems are the same everywhere all over the world. He has everywhere to deal with the soil, the plant, the animal; he makes use of the same sunshine, the same rain. When efforts at economics or social improvements are made, the same forces are used, education, organization, and the rest.

Another objection is that there is such severe competition between the farmers of America and farmers of other countries who have a lower standard of living that organization is not possible. There is competition, and there always will be. For that matter there is competition between groups of farmers within our own country, between growers of different commodities bidding for consumers, and competition between growers of the same commodity in different regions of the country. I am not sure but this intranational competition among farmers is quite as serious as any international competition is likely to be. However, to my mind all this competition is an argument for rather than against organization. It is precisely the job of organization to eliminate unnecessary competition.

And then we must remember that in the long run the general prosperity of America depends upon the general prosperity of the rest of the world. Leaders of industry and commerce are now urging that everything possible be done to increase the

standard of living of all classes of people everywhere in the world. What industry wants is constantly increasing buying power on the part of consumers. America has 120,000,000 consumers, only about one-fifteenth of the consumers of the world. Suppose the other fourteen-fifteenths had even one-half the buying power of the consumers of the United States. The results are beyond description.

Secretary Wallace once stated that there would probably be a growing and persistent cry in the cities for cheap food. The gravest danger to the farmers in this cry is the probability that cheap food may mean cheap men on the farms. But just from the business point of view, to say nothing about an ordinary human point of view, we are going to see that we cannot afford to have cheap men anywhere, in city or in country.

In a few days I shall be on my way to India as Counsellor on Rural Work for the International Missionary Council. It is hoped that I may be of some service in assisting the Christian forces in India to carry still further the work already well begun, of serving, at all points where need arises, the rural communities of India, and thus gradually building a Christian civilization in rural India. It is one of the newest international aspects of rural organization. It is part of the world's rural Christian enterprises.

I regret that thus far the American farmers and farm organizations have not participated sufficiently in these various international movements. I believe they should do so vigorously and wholeheartedly, and immediately. Indeed they should take the lead. They should do this partly as a matter of self-interest; it is something they cannot afford to neglect. But I should like to think that they will also do it from the broad standpoint of the common interests of the rural people of the world in their struggle to maintain themselves in this rapidly growing industrial and urban civilization. It will be a tragedy of the first magnitude if we cannot have the right kind of rural civilization. To accomplish this end requires organization not only within our country, but in every country coöperation with all the others.

I plead therefore not only for the recognition of the importance of the international aspects of rural organization, but also for the active participation and leadership of the American Farmers in this movement.

THE WALLACE MEMORIAL*

OPENING STATEMENT BY H. C. TAYLOR, *Chairman*

It is peculiarly fitting on this occasion, the first meeting of the American Country Life Association in his native state, to dedicate this rustic monument to the memory of Henry C. Wallace, the great Secretary of Agriculture. Wallace loved his native state, he loved its people, he sought ever to serve them. Wallace was a man who appreciated science as a means of serving mankind. He was not in sympathy with the scientist wholly detached from the practical world. He recognized that science should seek the truth regardless of whether the conclusions conformed to preconceived notions, yet he wanted scientific work directed toward the solution of human problems. Association with Wallace inspired a desire to be of service to the American farmer. His personality was not one that would override and force his point of view upon others, but his modest, sincere purposefulness inspired and transformed those about him into willing servants of mankind.

We have assembled here on the campus of the Iowa State College to dedicate this group of trees to the memory of Henry Cantwell Wallace by placing this bronze tablet on a boulder in their midst. On this tablet we read:

HENRY CANTWELL WALLACE
May 11, 1866—October 25, 1924

Student at Iowa State College—1885-1887 and 1892
Assistant Professor of Dairying, Iowa State College—1893-4
Associate Editor and Editor *Wallaces' Farmer*, 1895-1921
U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, 1921-1924

As editor he worked for a richer and happier rural life; as Secretary of Agriculture he provided an economic service for the American farmer; as statesman he led the vanguard in the battle

* The proceedings of the dedication of the Henry C. Wallace Memorial are separately printed and can be secured from Donald P. Murphy, Managing Editor of *Wallaces' Farmer*, Des Moines, Iowa.

for equality for agriculture; as a prophet he saw in the fertile lands of the corn belt the basis of a rural civilization finer than any the world has yet known; he died laboring to bring nearer the day of its coming.

This monument is presented to the Iowa State College by the American Country Life Association.

This is not an occasion for mourning the untimely death of our departed friend and leader. It is rather the occasion of glorying in the eminent service which he rendered to the people of his state and of the nation. This is preëminently an occasion of rejoicing that the spirit of Henry C. Wallace yet lives in our hearts and quickens our lives to greater service for mankind.

This monument is placed here in order that it may transmit this spirit of service to each succeeding generation of students and to the many casual visitors on this campus. Many a student will leave this spot having found the inspiration to undertake the tasks which make for progress toward "rural civilization finer than any the world has yet known."

RURAL SOCIAL JUSTICE

CARL C. TAYLOR

INTRODUCTION:

A. To approach a consideration of the problem of rural life by way of the concepts of justice and injustice is difficult, because

1. In the first place the term "justice" has so many connotations.

(a) It may be defined in purely technical terms, as being that which is legally justified,

(b) Or, it may be thought of as synonymous with such concepts as equity, fairness and meritoriousness.

2. In the second place the very topic "Rural Social Justice" implies the possibility or fact of injustice against agriculture and rural life.

3. In the third place we all know that any practicable application of justice to rural life involves a consideration of very complex human relations, and is, therefore, hard to vision and harder yet to make.

B. I shall not, therefore, attempt to approach this topic with any hard and fast definitions, but only with the following convictions in mind.

1. First, that the idea of rural social justice does demand that farm people shall have something approaching equality of opportunity with others.

2. Second, that the meritorious and fundamental division of labor which they perform in society warrants them to demand fair play in the distribution of the world's economic and social dividends.

3. And third, that the government of the United States and American society can ill afford to overlook facts and factors which are creating in the

minds of the rural segments of their constituents a conviction that rural life, rural enterprises and rural people are being impartially or unjustly treated.

I. Trends in American society which convince farmers that agriculture and rural life are on a basis of inequality.

A. The relative loss of status of the farmer in American society.

1. Our American civilization was built largely out of agriculture and our government for the first third of its life was guided largely by farmers—Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson.

2. Our chief wealth was in the enterprise of farming and those who tilled the soil largely owned the equities.

3. Today the farmer is not looked upon by himself or others as a member of either polite or prosperous society.

B. The increasing disparity between agricultural and nonagricultural incomes.

1. A recent report of the Federal Trade Commission computes that 1% of the American people own 59% of the wealth and 13% own 90% of the wealth. Only 10% is rural. All the great fortunes are accumulated in nonagricultural pursuits.

2. Dr. John D. Black in his recent book on "Agricultural Reform in the United States" says, (a) "At our present land prices, an average acre of land will buy only three-fourths as many commodities at exchange in the farmers' retail market as did an average acre before the war"; and, (b) "Since 1921 capitalization of farms has shrunk more than one-fourth, while twenty leading industrial stocks have increased about 500%"; and (c) "That New York factory hands' wages are 30% *above* 1919-20 levels and farmers incomes are 16% below 1919-20 levels."

C. The lag in the rural standard of living.

1. Many things like hospitals, recreation centers, public services, and up-to-date homes are not as prevalent in the county as in cities.

2. In some sections there has been a noticeable recession in the rural standard of living itself.*

II. What Justification Have Farmers For Holding Convictions About Inequality?

A. It is true that the farmers' voice is neither heard nor heeded in national politics as it once was.

1. It is probably true that he has been the victim of his own lack of enlightenment and lack of concern with national policies.

2. He will continue to be unheeded and unheard until he becomes vocal and effective through enlightened organizations by means of which he can compete for positions of political prestige and power.

B. It is true that the increasing disparity between his wealth, holdings and income and the wealth and income of industrial owners and wage earners has been to a considerable degree due to the artificial stimulus which the Federal Government has given to industries and thus to city dwelling persons.

1. Not only have tariffs, in essence, been governmental bonuses to industrial enterprises, but

2. These tariffs have increased farmers' cost of operation and costs of living, and

3. Even been no small factor in the drift of rural population to cities where the better paying, highly practical enterprises are locted.

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* I have not thus far asserted that all or any of these things are facts of injustice to agriculture. What I have attempted to say is that they are facts of observation or experience in the lives of American farmers and are believed by many farm people to constitute a trend toward unjustifiable inequalities between themselves and other segments of our society.

C. It is true that culture, in practically all of its material and tangible aspects lags in the country.

1. All the fine schools, churches, art galleries, theaters, recreation centers and similar material indices to modern civilization are located in the cities.

2. Farmers, both for the want of income and organized social agencies are deprived of luxuries which have long since become the normal comforts of even middle class urban people.

3. In many instances farmers have increased mortgage indebtedness on farms, sacrificed ownership altogether and moved into tenancy or into the towns and cities in order to guard against a recession in their established standard of living.

III. In What Lies Justice, or Equity or at Least Equanimity for American Farmers?

A. First, in widespread, enlightened and powerful organization.

1. In order that they may be heard and to a just degree heeded in the political and economic councils of national life.

2. In order that they may develop for themselves economic and social machinery by means of which to catch step and effectively function in the modern price and market scheme of our civilization.

3. In order that they may develop the home-grown leadership which agriculture so sorely lacks in an age of class selfishness and commercial and industrial dominance.

B. Second, an open and enlightened fight against economic and consequently social inequality which has developed in the United States because of Federal favoritism to other economic groups.

C. Third, a recognition and appreciation of those intangible values of life which are not indexed by material phases of culture.

1. The joy of open country living.
2. The creativeness of working with living, growing, blooming and bearing things.
3. The contentment and satisfaction of family life and work.
4. The knowledge of being the constant source of the vitality of both city and national population.
5. The satisfaction of doing a task that is fundamental and indispensable to the life of all mankind.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. If justice inheres in material culture equality then injustice to agriculture is a fact in American life.
2. If justice inheres in meritorious service to mankind constantly well done, then rural justice is well nigh complete.
3. If justice inheres in national government and national societies dealing impartially with its citizens and the segments of its population, then the day of equity and justice lies today before rural America as a yet unfulfilled hope.

THE NEED OF A RURAL LIFE PROGRAM

H. C. Taylor

The Vermont Commission on Country Life

It has been the hope of many of us that this meeting of the A. C. L. A. at Ames might be the occasion of planting the seeds which will develop into a constructive country life program for the Corn Belt and for the nation. The dedication of the memorial to Henry C. Wallace this afternoon has turned our minds to the work and ideals of that great Secretary of Agriculture, who accomplished much but who had it in his heart to do many things which at the end were left undone.

First among the things which Henry C. Wallace was thwarted in the desire to do was to return to the corn belt, after completing his service in Washington, and work on the problem of building on the rich lands of this area a finer type of rural civilization than the world has yet known.

Henry C. Wallace wrought a profound influence upon my own life and I am sure he influenced others in a similar manner. When Wallace came to Washington, I was a man of academic ideas. Wallace taught me to deal with the practical affairs of everyday life. I had been content as a student to see and to know. Wallace gave me the impulse to do. I was greatly honored when Wallace chose me as his personal assistant in building an economic service for the American farmer, but as Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which was established by Wallace, I was at times very disappointing to him. The difficulty grew out of the fact that during my long period of university work I had become academic. The impulses which started me into the field of agricultural economics were very human. They grew out of a desire to improve the conditions under which farmers work and live. But two decades and more in a large university cooled my ardor for mankind and whetted my appetite for detached scholarship.

I contended that the Bureau should be a scientific organization. To this Secretary Wallace made no objection but he

wanted it to be more than an organization of scholarly men studying and publishing the economic facts regarding the production and marketing of farm products. Wallace desired that the men of his economic bureau see, understand and sympathize with the farmer who faces the complex economic forces which determine what he should do in producing and marketing products and which facts determine what his attitude should be on questions of land utilization, credit systems, the tariff, taxation and many other economic questions.

The view had developed that all workers supported by state or federal funds must look ever to the welfare of the nation as a whole without regard to class interest. To this view Wallace made no objection but he noted that unfortunately, it had sometimes become the practice of civil servants to interpret "nation as a whole," not as the whole nation but the elements that dominate our political life. To some, "national welfare," as it related to the economics of agriculture, pointed to "cheap food and raw material" with little or no regard for the welfare of the farmer. The thing that Wallace insisted upon was that the welfare of the farm family be given full consideration along with the questions of farm and marketing efficiency. This resulted in a statement of policy as follows: "Agriculture should provide an abundant supply of food and raw material for the nation, at prices as low as is consistent with a living standard for farm people equal to that of people engaged in other occupations requiring equal skill, energy and capital."

While the Wallace policy has not been accepted by non-agricultural groups nor by the federal government, it was soon accepted by agricultural leaders inside and outside of the public service. A small publication on the agricultural situation was started, which showed the facts about farm prices in their relation to the prices of city products. Outlook reports were developed for the purpose of guiding farmers in adjusting production to the condition of the market. But perhaps more important than the transformation and new developments in the work of the Department of Agriculture was the new sympathy which was developed for the farmers who were struggling either independently or in organizations to help themselves in solving the nation-wide problem of a just distribution of the national income among those that produce it.

Wallace clearly recognized that agriculture has remained on a free competitive basis while vast numbers of other industries and occupations, through tariff legislation, labor legislation, railway legislation, industrial organizations, trade organizations, etc., have effectively limited competition in such a manner as to maintain prices on an artificial level far above what would result from free competition. As a result the share of agriculture in our national dividend has shrunk from more than 20% to about 10% with an accompaniment of distress, foreclosures, and an unparalleled transfer of land from farmers to bankers, insurance companies and every other class of people who had loaned money on farm mortgages. Wallace saw that this new situation developed by an artificial and unjust distribution of wealth must have the attention of statesmen of a new order if our national life is to be saved from disaster, and that the finding and placing in power of statesmen to meet this situation should be a part of the rural program of America.

Many of the elements of a higher rural civilization must come through organized efforts. Much of this organized effort can best be carried forward through the government agencies—federal, state and local. But even more must come through voluntary organizations. The improvement of the economic status of farmers will come only as a result of a common understanding of the forces which determine the distribution of wealth, the development of farmer leaders devoted to the cause, and a resulting unity of purpose and action on the part of farm people in their farm planning, in their marketing activities, in their home and community living standards and last but not least in the exercise of their privileges as citizens. Coöperative associations and the general farm organization may play a leading part in this field of action.

The development of unity of action by rural people comparable to that in other occupations, is impossible without a program. The starting point in the development of a program is a study of the present status, the needs and the possibilities of rural life. The Comprehensive Survey of Rural Vermont has for its objective the development of such a program by and for the people of rural Vermont. The Corn Belt needs a program. Every rural region in America and in the world needs a program with the better life as the objective. These

many programs once developed will have so much in common that a national and ultimately a world program for rural people may be perfected.

The main reason farm people are found on both sides of so many public issues is because they have no program of their own. Help them think out a program of their own and they will commence voting intelligently. The development of a rural program which includes the improvement of all phases of rural life is a real task for the A. C. L. A. and for every man and woman inside or outside of this organization who is interested in rural people.

Students of the subject know much of the needs of country life in America. The present need is a plan of action and a widespread impulse on the part of rural people to secure for themselves the physical and psychic elements of a satisfying life. The program should include production, distribution and life. This plan needs to be thought out by rural people for themselves with the aid of educators.

The production program has received much attention. Certain studies have dealt with methods of efficient marketing. This is simply the later stages of the productive process. The problem of securing a fair income in return for the efforts of the efficient farmer has scarcely been touched upon. Furthermore, the right utilization of the available income of farmers has received but little attention by the agencies dealing with rural affairs. Any program for building a finer rural civilization must center about the securing of better incomes for farm people and the utilization of incomes in securing the basic conditions of a healthful, wholesome, cultured life.

This means much more than an abundant supply of food, clothing and shelter of the modern standards of quality. It must include also the utilization of the accumulated wisdom of the race with respect to the ways of life. Education, of course, must be a part of this program, but not simply education for efficiency in work and production. It must include education with respect to happy human relations—something which I can not fully describe but a thing possessed by truly cultured people. It might be called efficiency in making others happy and yet it is more subtle than this implies. It rests back upon kindly human emotions of man for man in the vari-

ous relations of life. Efficiency is a poor word to use in this connection because this culture is in a measure in conflict with many of the elements of efficiency in organizing business because cultured people consider life itself more important than the final increments of product which modern industry extracts at too great a human cost.

Music, art and literature are agencies which stimulate the growth in mankind of those human qualities broadly designated as culture and which enrich the quality of human life and relations. These agencies operate with difficulty where there is little leisure. Likewise where there is too much leisure. The right balance between work and leisure is essential to the development of the higher life. Modern efficiency in agriculture paves the way for this right balance between work and leisure in rural life, but does not guarantee it. Along with efficiency must come an equitable occupational distribution of wealth before farmers may reap the rewards of efficiency in terms of better living. The shortening of hours of labor on the farm is one of the means of providing leisure and at the same time limiting the supply of farm products and thus stimulating better prices.

In England the eight hour day has been established in agriculture. I have many times wondered why a human life is more highly prized in England than in America. People are relatively scarce here. A higher price is paid for human services here than in England. Yet in that country much more expense is incurred in guarding against the injury of human beings. While in England a few weeks ago, I found what I think to be the answer. I was impressed with the fact that the English people—the English common folk—have a high degree of culture. They appear to have a very kindly feeling one for another. This is particularly noticeable on the highways of England. The motorists treat each other as friends. Even the pedestrian in the English roads volunteers to give traffic signals to the motorists who are approaching blind crossings or curves in the narrow lanes.

The methods of building into our lives the culture without which no amount of economic prosperity can give a richness of life is one of the things to be studied and planned. The schools, the churches and the press can help in solving this problem, but

they are not helping as much as they should. The modern school gives too much attention to training for dollar efficiency and too little to training for life efficiency. Too much attention is given to training people to succeed in business and too little attention to the problem of making life a success. The Church, unfortunately, has apparently declined in influence. It was once a more important factor in bringing culture to all classes of people than it appears to be today. The explanation may be that its influence has been overrun with the brambles of modern economic efficiency. The Church must be restored to its proper place in the life of our people. Its simple messages of life are the basis of human culture. The press, in its output of journals and books is in a strategic position today when everyone reads, to bring a richness of life to rural people. Unfortunately, the publisher with high ideals finds himself in competition with the dollar-seeking publisher who writes his columns to suit his advertisers. It is a mark of the low ebb of American culture that a paper idealistic in purpose must as a rule be subsidized in order to continue its work.

This is all too abstract. I fear I have for the moment forgotten the lesson Wallace taught me and have again become academic. To avoid this, I shall recur again to the days in Washington when the Wallace influence was dominant in my life.

It was my custom in those days to visit Secretary Wallace in the office of the Secretary of Agriculture in the morning between eight and nine o'clock. Nine o'clock was the opening hour of the Department of Agriculture. One morning in the summer of 1924, Wallace's mind was turned toward the Corn Belt. He discoursed at some length upon the fact that here lies the largest area of fertile land to be found anywhere in the world. He said that this land should form the basis of a rural civilization of a type finer than the world has ever known. Yet much of the land is owned by people who live in southern California or in the cities and towns of the middle West. This leaves much of the land occupied by tenants who pay a large share of the income of the farm as rent to absentee owners. Again a large proportion of the farmers who own the farms they operate are burdened with mortgage indebtedness, the interest on which makes a heavy drain upon the farmer's income. Wallace raised

the question, "How, under these conditions, can the proceeds of a fertile soil be transformed into a finer type of rural civilization?" At times I thought I saw signs of a pessimistic view of the future of the Corn Belt but again I saw even more clearly and certainly a determination that the natural heritage of the Corn Belt must be built into a finer type of civilization than the world has yet known.

Secretary Wallace expressed the desire to finish his work in Washington and return to his native state to devote his remaining years to setting in motion the forces which in time would result in a rural life in the Corn Belt of that finer type which her fertile lands might well support.

Unfortunately, Wallace was stricken down while his work in Washington was yet incomplete. The return to Iowa for a great work here was forestalled by death. The question today is, "Where are the leaders, who, seeing this problem, will dedicate their lives to carrying forward this work which Wallace so yearned to do?"

THE MASTER HOMEMAKER

Mrs. Charles W. Sewell

The naming of master farm homemakers each year is a distinctive and new tribute to the farm women of America. It marks homemaking as a business and a profession adding dignity and appreciation to a group of women who have heretofore oftentimes been highly efficient but poorly paid executives. In the rush and change of progress and advancement, perhaps nothing has undergone so radical a change in the past quarter of a century as has the general status of women. Particularly is this true as regards the farm woman. Twenty-five years ago the difficulty of transportation and communication set the farm home and its mistress apart from the rest of the land. Today modern invention and discovery have brought town and country women very closely together with the result that many people have a great deal of difficulty in distinguishing the mistress of one home from that of the other.

Some of the most cherished values in all home life are those which are highly intangible—the blue of the sky, the color of the rose, a baby's smile, a mother's love, order, contentment, hospitality and godliness are all intangible—cannot be measured in worth of dollars or cents or length of feet and yards.

The student of history finds keen interest in the passing period of heroines of old and new day. Joan of Arc tending her father's flocks had a vision of what she might do for her country. Alone she could accomplish little or nothing but she set about to create sentiment which made possible the mobilization of a great French army and for a time threatened the victory of the English forces.

Florence Nightingale, a little country girl, binding the broken leg of a pet sheep had within her soul the idea of easing human suffering. The "Angel of Crimea" as she was lovingly called, encouraged other girls and women to begin the study of scientific nursing and taught the generals of the land that disease and infection killed more soldiers than bullets.

Frances E. Willard realized that her fight for temperance could not be won by her own single-handed effort but with the organization of the W. C. T. U., a band of women which reaches around the world, her efforts were multiplied by many millions and her name will be loved and revered throughout the succeeding years.

A few decades ago a woman's literary club was a thing of a great deal of ridicule—a good-natured, perhaps, but nevertheless belittling. Today the great army of women making up the General Federation of Women's Clubs constitute a lobby as powerful in our nation's capitol as any that is maintained by industry or labor. A five-term congressman said of this group recently: "These women keep a fellow guessing; you can't jolly them along or put them off like you can a bunch of men. They know what they want and generally keep on the job until they get it."

The greatest contribution which American farm women can bring to farm organizations today is the creation of sentiment to preserve the ideals and principles of high-type American home life as typified in the homes of these master farm homemakers. The challenge to the farm home today has never been exceeded in any other period of civilization.

The constantly growing disregard for law and its enforcement, intemperance, the evils of divorce, a gradual breaking down of the established ideals of womanhood all aim at the very foundation of the American home. It is a good omen that the farm women are rallying to the support of their men in organization circles, seeking with them to inform, inspire and enlist great numbers of farm families to help secure an adequate standard of living for the farm home and the income from the farm to pay the bill.

In a survey undertaken by Cornell University last year, it was found that the farm wife has scant leisure time. Even the most efficient, according to a study of four hundred homes, obtains two hours as against four hours of leisure enjoyed by the village and town housewife. Yet out of these two hours, the farm woman invariably gives more time to church work and social activities in her community.

Organization has given to the modern farm woman a broader sense of hospitality and friendship, a national and international

acquaintance, a gradual breaking down of the barriers of sectionalism.

Modern farm women are being thoroughly aroused to civic consciousness and in their organized groups are studying issues and men rather than partisan politics. Farm women are coming to agree with James Freeman Clarke in his statement "a politician thinks only of the next election—a statesman of succeeding generations."

In farm organization, as in the churches, the American farm woman will contribute faith, hope, idealism, loyalty, thrift and patient industry to the end that the social and economic conditions of American agriculture combine in such a way as to safeguard and perpetuate a high type of living; to make children the best crop of the farm and American rural family life the finest any civilization has ever produced.

RURAL STUDENT INTERESTS

E. L. Kirkpatrick

Sixty persons registered for the Student Section meetings of the twelfth annual conference of the American Country Life Association Conference, at Iowa State College, October 17-19, 1929. Thirty-five of these were from Iowa and 25 were from other states; 11 from West Virginia, 9 from Michigan, 3 from Illinois, and 1 each from Georgia and Massachusetts.

All who registered, as well as many who did not, attended and participated in the section programs which were conducted primarily by the discussion method. Exceptions to the discussion programs were the student banquet, planned and presided over by students, and the Saturday morning session at which noted authorities in special fields told of opportunities for service in those fields.

The banquet was attended by more than 75 persons, most of whom were students. Features of the program were addresses by Mrs. Charles Sewell, Chairman of the Home and Community Committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and Dean A. R. Mann of Cornell University. Greetings, songs, yells and remarks from delegates representing different colleges and universities "rounded out" a most enjoyable banquet program.

In the regular sessions of the Section discussions centered around the different aspects of a report on "Clubs or Organizations Which Further Rural Life Interests in Colleges and Universities," and on the "Syllabus on Rural Organization," prepared during the past year by B. Y. Landis and E. L. Kirkpatrick. Reports of activities carried on by clubs at the different colleges were contributions to the success of the conference. Regular attendance and continued participation of the delegates in the discussions was indicative of a keen interest of college students in rural organizations. This applies to organizations furthering rural life interests on college campuses as well as to organizations functioning in rural communities.

The several discussions of the student group stressed the need for increased attention to the human aspects and the organization side of farm life on the typical college campus. It was the decision of the group that more than two in five colleges should have clubs that are endeavoring to further country life interests.

Clubs of different kinds such as Collegiate Country Life, 4-H, and Student Grange, on college campuses afford one of the best means of preserving and creating an interest in country life, of giving objective to country life, of studying the essentials of good rural leadership and of developing higher standards of farm life according to the conclusions reached in the Student Section through serious and purposeful discussion. These conclusions appeared to be checked at many points by the presentations of adult speakers who contributed to the success of the entire conference.

Among the recommendations prepared by the Resolutions Committee and adopted unanimously at the last of the student sessions are the following:

(1) That each club or group represented by the Conference do something between now and the next A. C. L. A. conference to create and maintain an interest in Country life.

(2) That each group have as a part of this year's program the task of interesting some other college in sending representatives to the next A. C. L. A. conference.

(3) That the Board of Directors of the A. C. L. A. bring their influence to bear on administrations and faculties of different colleges where there is a natural interest in country life to have these institutions represented in the Student Section of A. C. L. A. conferences in the future.

(4) That colleges where no group now exists be urged to accept the challenge of country life in order that clubs or organizations be set up to further the interests of country life. This does not mean that other clubs need be organized where Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Collegiate 4-H Club, Collegiate Country Life Club, Student Grange, or agricultural club or association now exists. Rather it means that existing clubs be encouraged to incorporate the country life idea in their programs or activities. Where no club exists at present, however, it does mean that steps be taken leading toward the organiza-

tion of a club. Further, this does not mean the annihilating of any group, but a correlation of programs with the inclusion of some emphasis on country life.

(5) That a summary of the Student Section meetings be prepared and a copy sent to each member who attended the conference.

(6) That a written report and plan of activities of the various clubs at colleges be prepared and mailed to the Student Section of the American Country Life Association for distribution to other clubs in other colleges.

(7) That student clubs which are expected to participate in A. C. L. A. programs be asked to share in the preparation of these programs and given a more definite idea of the things they may do.

(8) That the Student or Rural Youth Section of the American Country Life Association be represented at the national 4-H Club camps which are now held annually at Washington, D. C., in order that more state club leaders may be interested in country life activities on college campuses.

The election of officers at the conclusion of the business meetings resulted in the choice of Miss Helen Melton, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, President, and Mr. Harley Burton, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, secretary. Miss Melton and Mr. Burton are also student representatives on the Board of Directors of the Country Life Association for the year 1930.

COMMUNITY, COUNTY AND STATE PROGRAMS

TYPES OF RURAL ORGANIZATIONS

MURL MCDONALD
Extension Service, Iowa State College

The theme discussed at the 1928 Urbana Conference was rural-urban relationships. It was agreed that both the urban and the rural districts are included in a community.

Types of rural organization were cataloged and discussed. Approximately a hundred different organizations representing nearly twenty rather distinct classifications were listed.

Quite naturally the first reaction is that there are too many organizations. That may or may not be true. Correlation rather than annihilation was stressed and the meat of the entire discussion seemed to be this—"Correlation without Duplication."

The list of organizations follows:

CLASSIFICATION OF RURAL ORGANIZATIONS

General Type Rural or Urban Organizations—

Farm Bureau.
Grange.
Farmer's Union.
Gleaners.
Farmers' Clubs.
Community Clubs.
Commercial Clubs.
Service Clubs.
Labor Organizations.

Commodity Marketing Associations—

Livestock Shipping Associations.
Livestock Commission Associations.
Coöperative Elevators.
Coöperative Seed Houses.
Coöperative Creameries.
Coöperative Poultry Marketing.
Coöperative Milk Producers.
Coöperative Honey Marketing.

Coöperative Grape Marketing.
Wool Producers' Association.

Coöperative Stores and Exchanges.

Livestock Improvement and Breed Associations—
Beef Cattle Breeders' Associations.
Beef Cattle Producers.
Swine Breeders' Associations.
Horse Breeders' Associations.
Sheep Breeders' Associations.

Dairy Associations.
Dairy Cattle Breeders' Associations.
State Dairy Associations.
National Dairy Council.
Cow Test Associations.
Coöperative Creamery Managers' and Secretaries' Association.

Poultry Producers' Associations.

Crop Associations—
Crop Improvement Association.
Corn and Small Grain Growers' Association.
Horticultural Society.
Fruit Growers' Association.
Florists' Association.
Hot House Association.
Sugar Beet Growers.
Tobacco Growers.
Peanut Growers.
Muck Farmers' Association.
Beekeepers' Association.
Forestry Association.

Coöperative Insurance—
Mutual Fire and Lightning.
Mutual Hail Insurance.
Mutual Life Insurance.
Mutual Automobile Insurance.
Protective Associations.

Mutual Telephone Companies.

Rural Credit Associations.

Bankers' Associations.

Manufacturers' Associations.

Parent-Teachers' Associations.

Junior Organizations—
4-H Boys' Clubs.
4-H Girls' Clubs.
Boy Scouts.
Camp Fire Girls.

Lone Scouts.
Agricultural Community Service Clubs.

Professional and Vocational Organizations—
State Teachers' Associations.
Consolidated School Associations.
Vocational Conference.
Association of Economics and Sociology.
County School Superintendents' Association.
Master Farmers.
Master Home Makers.
County Agents' Associations.
Home Demonstration Agents' Associations.
Home Economics Association.
Library Association.
Child Study Association.
Fair Secretaries' Association.

Fairs, Shows, Exhibits and Institutes.

Religious Organizations—
Churches and Church Conferences.
Religious Education Association.
Young Men's Christian Association.
Young Women's Christian Association.
Sunday School Association.
Town and Country Pastors' Associations.
State Council of Religious Education.
Church Societies.
Women's Christian Temperance Union.
Young Peoples' Leagues and Societies.

Agricultural Councils—
State Councils.
County Councils.

Health Organizations—
Red Cross.
Anti-Tuberculosis Association.
State Department of Health.
State Sanitarium Association.
State Heart Association.
Livestock Sanitary Board.
Community Hospitals.
Crippled Children Society.
State Medical Association.
State Nurses' Association.

Social Service Organizations.

Patriotic Organizations—
G. A. R.
D. A. R.

American Legion.
Spanish War Veterans.
Historical Society.

Recreational Association—
State Park Association.
City Park Commissions.

Municipal Agencies—
City Councils.
Town Planning Council.
Rural Electrification Project.

Political Organizations—
Political Parties.
Leagues of Women Voters.

In addition to all of these organizations there are various institutions and agencies which represent the organized interest of people in rural activities.

LOCAL RURAL ORGANIZATIONS

E. L. KIRKPATRICK
The Wisconsin College of Agriculture

Rural society is undergoing significant changes. The neighborhood no longer holds farmers to the restricted contacts of former days. Locality is giving way to special interests as a basis for group organization. Farm families are merging with the more complex life of all society. Their range of interests is expanding. Their organizational affiliations appear to be increasing.

These and other evident changes raise three pertinent questions concerning rural organizations in the typical farming locality:

1. What is the organization situation or picture?
2. What factors have the closest relation to or association with it?
3. What shall be the procedure in the promotion of organizations?

THE SITUATION

A recent study of 282 families with a total of 924 individuals, 10 years of age or over, in 12 rural school districts in Wisconsin,

throws some light on these questions. Six of the districts represent high organization areas and six represent low organization areas.*

Organizations centered within or reaching the families in the high organization districts ranged from 12 to 25 in number with an average of 18.7 per district. In the low organization districts they ranged from 8 to 14 with an average of 10.7 per district. Several of the latter districts had no organizations centered within them. The organizations which were considered included poultry, cow-testing, milk producers' and marketing associations, farm bureaus, equities, granges, lodges, church societies, dramatic clubs, young people's clubs and other similar organizations.

There were 151 families in high organization districts. These contained 469 persons 10 years of age or over. There were 131 families with 455 persons of this age in the low organization districts.

In terms of family participation indexes, the high organization districts had almost four times as much rural organization activity as did the low organization districts.

There were 81 families with no participation whatever.

Eighty-four and three-tenth per cent of the families had one or more persons affiliated with organizations in the high organization districts, compared with 57.3 per cent in the low organization districts. The number of organizations with which the family was affiliated averaged 2.6 and 1.2 respectively for the high and low organization districts.

The number of organization meetings attended during the year of study averaged 11.2 per person for the high organization districts and 2.6 per person for the low organization districts. Contributions in the form of money or other goods or services amounted to 1.6 per person for the high organization districts and .5 per person for the low organization districts. One in two persons served on committees in high organization districts compared to one in ten persons in the low. Likewise one in five persons held an office in the former districts in comparison with one in thirty persons in the latter.

* High organization areas had a relatively large number of organizations which appeared to be functioning at the time of the study. Low orgnization areas had few or no organizations functioning in them.

RELATION OF FACTORS

Forty different factors were examined by the statistical method for their relation to organization behavior, especially to affiliation with organizations and attendance at organization meetings. These included church attendance, size of family and ages of the different persons composing the family, size of farm, in terms of acres cropped, and gross cash income from farming.

The factors which were analyzed by the statistical method appeared to contribute not more than one-fourth of the total relation contributed by all factors involved in the organization situation. This indicated that some of the most important factors had not been and probably could not be included within the scope of statistical analyses.

These more important factors were sought by the case method of study in the ecological and cultural backgrounds of the localities and of the families within the localities. By this method of study the organization situation in the locality seems to be shaped largely by certain intangible factors pertaining to the history, traditions and culture of the neighborhood or the community. Among these are early settlement and nationality backgrounds, neighborhood groupings and stimulation in the way of suggestions and promotion from outside agencies. The people in the high organization districts appear to have had for a long time common objectives and tendencies to work together. In the low organization districts they have had little in common and have not learned the art of coöperating with each other in groups. With less experience in group activities as a background on which to build, the low organization districts usually get less stimulation from outside agencies than do the districts which are already highly organized. Apparently this makes for overloading with some families in well-organized localities and provides little or no organizational opportunity for families in poorly organized localities.

PROCEDURE IN REGARD TO PROMOTION OF ORGANIZATIONS

Those families which are assuming the leadership and sharing the support of organizations in highly organized localities can scarcely be expected to assist in the promotion of additional organizations. More could be expected of the families who are

assuming less responsibilities in these localities if they could be reached without putting additional responsibilities on families already taxed to their capacities.

Practically all families in poorly organized localities could give and many of them are ready to give more support to organizations which might center within or reach the families living in their localities. "We need some club here to get all the people together on something," "We need some organization which will really help the community," and "I can't see why the county agent don't come down here; he comes up on the ridge," people in these localities were heard to say.

The promotion of organizations in these localities as well as in more highly organized localities must be based on thoroughgoing study. Localities differ widely in basic backgrounds such as historical and ecological setting, early settlement and nationality groups and accumulations of culture, traditions and organization experiences. These differences must be taken into account if the promotion of local rural organizations is to be successful and lasting.

COMMUNITY SCORE CARDS AS INSTRUMENTS FOR CORRELATING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OF WORK

NAT T. FRAME
The West Virginia Extension Service

For ten years we have been emphasizing in West Virginia Extension Work the use of community score cards as a means of stimulating group thinking and developing correlated programs of work. That we are increasing this emphasis from year to year proves our confidence in this device, when consistently and persistently used in rural neighborhoods and communities from 500 to 5,000 population.

In the smaller places where practically the total population can be brought together face to face in the local church, high school, or community building, we prefer to distribute the score card for the first time at such a community meeting. The purpose in using such a device and its limitation can then be frankly presented to the audience. Out of the group, by judi-

cious questioning, can be pulled enough facts and viewpoints to help clarify the minds of the whole group, so that they will see that they have common problems in many different fields, indicated by the headings of the score card. These are: Community Spirit, Citizenship, Recreation, Health, Homes, Schools, Churches, Business and Farms.

The score cards are purposely prepared so as to develop a picture of the neighborhood as an entity, a smaller unit in a larger community.

Following the development of this picture and the interpretation of the interrelation of the different problems facing the group, smaller committees can advantageously work out the other pages of the score card, putting their finger upon outstanding problems and recommending details in a plan of work to be carried on to overcome the problems. The final plan of work as put together by the central committee is generally presented to the whole assemblage for final approval.

The usual steps in such community scoring are as follows:

First, A general Meeting of Leaders.

A meeting, preferably at noon or evening luncheon, where local people interested in a scoring study of their community may meet the representative of the Extension Service of the University, should be arranged. The chamber of commerce, the farm bureau, any one of the service clubs, the women's club, or any other body or council with the vision to see the need should feel free to take the initiative looking toward such a meeting.

Then, a Committee on Committees.

At this meeting will be explained the procedure and benefits from community scoring. A central committee on committees, of possibly five members, will need to be appointed.

Next, Ten Fact-Finding Committees are Selected.

These Committees study their town in an earnest attempt to discover strength and weaknesses in the life of a community.

The Committees then meet with the Umpires who help them interpret the reports in terms of points earned on the score card. Their experience in other community scoring will justify their acting as umpires in case of uncertainty on the part of the committee. In this way the score arrived at may be in accord with scores of other communities and roughly comparable.

A Plan of Work is the Goal:

A night meeting with all committee members present, along with others interested, should be held to discuss the findings, and to consider the mapping out of a possible program of work for the coming one, two, or three years.

The Plan Must Be Translated into Action:

This program may well contain from five to ten or twelve main objectives or goals. Practically the same committee members should then definitely accept the responsibility of taking the lead in a vigorous and persistent and resourceful effort to bring about, in one way or another, these needed improvements. The Extension Division will assist in putting across the program adopted, so far as it is able, and will be pleased to advise and put the committees in touch with various sources of help available along the lines of their respective efforts.

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

An examination of the charts which summarize the programs of work of the twelve rural neighborhoods of Harrison County and the trade center town of Mason County (Point Pleasant, population 5,000) for 1930 will indicate the kind of problems that seem of greatest importance to the people in the communities and steps that they propose to take to better conditions. The plan of work of Trinity neighborhood in Harrison County is as follows:

1. Complete, publish and study Trinity history.
2. Improve cemetery.
3. Community tour.
4. More Four-H club members—calf club.
5. More definite plan of work, publicly displayed.
6. More members in Farm Bureau.
7. Volley ball for club and school.
8. Health committee (a) to make survey.
   (b) pre-school clinic.
   (c) hot lunch.
9. More members in women's club.
10. Coöperative buying of seeds, fertilizers, lime, etc.
11. Construct community dipping vat.
12. One community lesson on Farm Relief Bill.
13. Hold field meetings, study fertilizer plots.
14. Join cow testing association.

The program of work for 1930 for Mason County as adopted at Point Pleasant the trade center is as follows:

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A-1. Make the committee report on historical spots near Point Pleasant basis of a neat little folder to be placed in hotels, filling stations and elsewhere. Put appropriately placed and worded signs at the main entrances to town urging visitors to ask for one of these guides to interesting spots.

A-3. With the coöperation of the county agent's office prepare a community map including Point Pleasant and its trade area indicating the various neighborhoods and other units within the community boundaries that should be assisted in working out a neighborhood program of work that will fit into the community-wide program. Encourage the use of this map on calendars, etc.

C-2. Encourage publicity on the development of the vegetable marketing demonstration authorized by the last legislature.

CITIZENSHIP

C-3. Request council to appoint a special committee on Fire Insurance Rates to ascertain what must be done by the city in building code enforcement, fire equipment, etc., to reduce rates. Give publicity to results of such study.

C-4. Send a well-informed, public-spirited committee before council to urge adoption of most workable plan for adequate sewerage removal and disposal.

E. Consult the county agent on a definite city plan for Point Pleasant.

SOCIAL WELFARE

A-1. Bring together a joint committee representing the different civic organizations, the school board, and the farm bureau to discuss the possibility and practicability of pooling resources on an all-year-round recreation specialist and Four-H club leader.

C-2. Ask University coöperation on developing a long-time program of adequate and economical care for the dependent poor.

HEALTH

A-1. Distribute in an effective way a reasonable number of announcements for the Better Homes Week of 1930 when these are available through Better Homes in America.

C-1. Accept for the time at least the living standards agreed upon by the West Virginia Farm Women's clubs, namely that any family of five cannot live on less than $1,200 a year.

EDUCATION

A-1. Continue to develop solidarity between town and country by providing high school facilities in Point Pleasant for the country youth. It would appear that this can best be brought about through the development of a junior high school.

B-3. Urge interest in the parent-teacher movement.

B-5. Request the recently appointed state library commission and the American Library Association in Chicago for definite assistance. Plan development of an adequate county library service.

CHURCHES

A-3. Urge the ministerial association to plan even more union services than in the past. Endorse teacher training for Sunday Schools.

APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTIFUL

A. Urge a campaign to beautify not only the well-to-do homes but every street and every home in the entire community. If the whole community would blossom out with real flowers next year it would not only be good advertising but it would also produce a good psychological effect.

BUSINESS

C-1. Consider how Point Pleasant can take best advantage of the federal and state laws on coöperative marketing.

INDUSTRY

C. We urge that special efforts be made by the business club, chamber of commerce or other local interests looking to the location of future industry at Point Pleasant to take fullest advantage of such organizations and agencies as would naturally be sympathetic to Point Pleasant.

PROGRESS REPORTS

"Progress reports," uniform booklets with blank pages for minutes, memoranda and other records of occurrences that take place from time to time bearing upon the achievement of the community program are used to check at annual conferences what has been accomplished.

Variations in methods of holding these annual conferences, in the entertainment features interlarded with the serious discussions and in the use of inspirational preachers and speakers must of course be made from time to time to avoid monotony. In some of our communities changes in leadership or the environmental conditions have made it advisable to discontinue the annual rescorings because little or no progress was being made. On the other hand, a considerable proportion of the country communities in West Virginia who began the use of this device ten years ago are rescoring themselves every year and preparing annual programs of work with increasing understanding and enthusiasm.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IN MISSOURI

Fred Boyd
Missouri College of Agriculture

In discussing the distinctive features of community organization in Missouri we will not only touch upon the mechanics of the community organization work but we shall attempt to interpret to you the spirit in which we are carrying on our work.

We tried to work out a type of community organization which would be adapted to the needs of the situation in Missouri as it existed six years ago. We neither believe nor claim the Missouri plan would fit all the states of the union. Attempting to work out a plan that would fit all occasions, all places, and all people we regard as all but impossible. Different states, different people have their own views with regard to what is the best thing to do in attempting to carry out a program of community organization. The plan was started some six years ago in the fall of 1923 by my predecessor, B. L. Hummel, who devoted five years in developing a community organization in Missouri.

Some of the specific or distinctive features of the Missouri plan are that practically all major phases of community life except religion and politics are each represented by a standing committee. We have five committees—the committee on agriculture, the committee on home making, the committee on educational affairs, a committee on civic affairs, and a social committee.

We have the regular officers, consisting of a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer. These officers are elected by all persons in the community over 14 years of age who desire to participate in the work of the community association. The plan is used in different ways by different communities. Usually the chairman of each committee is nominated by a nominating committee which nominates the president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. The persons elected as chairmen of the different committees then select their committee.

This plan is varied in some of the communities in that they select the committee members for each committee and then the members of the committee get together and select their own committee chairmen. In the Missouri plan of community organiza-

tion we have no membership fee and no dues. Most of the money is raised by socials, moving picture shows, ice cream suppers and like methods.

One of the outstanding features of the Missouri plan of community organization is that each one of these five committees, usually under the guidance and direction of the county agent, selects a program of work made up of three or four projects. To give you an example of what I mean, the Agricultural Committee may select as one of its projects a demonstration of growing alfalfa in a community that has never grown alfalfa before, or it may arrange for a local farmer to conduct a poultry feeding demonstration. The educational committee may select as one of its projects the forming of a 4-H club in the community. The civic committee may set as one of its goals the graveling of the walks leading from the door of the schoolhouse to the road and to the schoolhouse well, in each one of the district schools of the organized community. At the beginning of the new year in January each committee selects its projects and designates the month of the year in which each is to be completed.

The organization meets once a month. The social committee tries to sponsor a social part of the program for each monthly meeting. In so far as possible local talent is utilized. Efforts are made to include people from each one of the school districts in the organized communities. Ordinarily we have three, five or six rural school districts in an organized community.

Some of our community associations are organized in what we would term the open country. Others are organized in a village center and include part of the surrounding rural territory. In general most of our work has been organized on what we would term the urban basis including in this organization both a small rural village and the surrounding rural territory which looks upon this village as its natural center for trade, for social good times, for educational advantages, particularly high school education, and frequently for the religious work in the community.

We realize that in using the term rural community we are using a term upon which rural sociologists cannot agree. In our experience, in about half of the cases where we designated a rural community as having natural territory it was not difficult to locate this community and its territory. We find that if the

village is the community center, the people surrounding that village regard the village as their retail trade center. They go to this village on Saturdays to trade and to visit. They send their children to this village high school. Frequently they go to the village for parties and other social events. They go to the community center for the moving picture shows held perhaps twice a week or maybe only once a week. In many cases these rural people belong to the village churches.

In the other instances, however, we find it very difficult to designate or to determine what is the exact community with which we are working. Such a rural community is like many other things in this world. It is in a constant stage of flux. At times the influence of the community center grows and more people are drawn to this community center. At other times the strength of a given community center declines and people do not come out to the social events or to the different meetings that are held there. This means that the community lines are drawn in closer around the community center. It has been our experience, however, in the main, that the communities with which we work are determined more than anything else by the "drawing power" of the community centers. It is certain, however, that these communities are not determined by any political or arbitrary unit that is decided ahead of time, or fixed for all time.

We find as we work with them in Missouri that the communities are influenced by a number of things. For instance, as mentioned before, the local trade area is an important factor. The place where the social events are held is another. The distance from a similar community center; the place where the high school is located, the direction of the roads, the presence of a lake or a mountain or other natural boundaries, the location of the telephone exchange, the post office, the church, and lodges are other factors that frequently influence the drawing power of the community center, and thus determine the boundaries of the community.

Some may ask what we mean by community organization. Putting it as simply as we can, we think of it as the effort on the part of the local people to work together for common ends. Community organization involves a pooling or pulling together

of the community interests in civic, agricultural, educational and other phases of community life.

In the past six years, rural conditions have changed greatly in Missouri as in other states. For example, on October 1, 1923, Missouri had approximately 500 miles of concrete and gravel or improved highways. Today the state has 4,200 miles of concrete, gravel, brick, or macadam highways. Thus a given type of community organization may no longer meet the needs. Urbanization is also rapidly changing the conditions under which we started.

Our work has been done chiefly through the county extension agents and home demonstration agents. In Missouri as in other states we find here and there a county agent who is of such a turn of mind and has had such a training that when he thinks of community organization he thinks of it only as a vehicle by which he may "put over" more lime, legumes, corn and hogs. His chief concern is corn and hogs, not people, not the social well being of the community. Such a county agent will say, "We had a very poor meeting last week. It was too much social." In such a county agent's mind whenever a meeting gives less than major emphasis to agricultural production, from his viewpoint the community meeting was a failure. The socialization of rural people, the building up of group consciousness is something that a few county agents consider of little importance. This emphasis upon production was reflected by a successful farmer when asked how the community organization work should be evaluated. He replied, "That's easy. Evaluate it in terms of practices adopted." What he meant was evaluate community organization with its fivefold problem—the agricultural, home making, educational, civic and social—in terms of improved agricultural production. If more tons of lime have been spread, more legumes have been raised, more hogs have been kept in clean, sanitary quarters, more kitchens have been improved, then, and then only, is community organization important and worth while in the lives of rural people, according to such a viewpoint. Wherever this attitude is found it makes the carrying out of our program difficult because it attempts to judge a socializing program for rural men and women, rural boys and girls, in terms of corn and hogs, lime and legumes. For fear we may be misunderstood we want to say these are

important. They are necessary phases of rural life and a county agent's program of work, but we believe training in group coöperation and the development of innate abilities and leadership qualities in rural people are equally important.

In Missouri we have had to contend with a situation which is not common to many states. Besides the Grange and Farmers' Union, we have two large and powerful competing farmer organizations. One of these, the Missouri Farmer's Association, or Hirth organization, has in many localities been unfriendly to the Agricultural Extension Service, including county agent work, because they claim they can see no value in the Extension program. The Farm Bureau, on the other hand, has consistently and enthusiastically supported Extension work and aided county courts in financing the work. Organizing Community Associations as a part of the Extension organization was part of our attempt to avoid working with but one of the rival, competing organizations.

If the Farm Bureau had been the only large farmer's organization in Missouri and had wanted us to aid them in their organization and community activities as is done in a number of states we probably would, without a doubt, have followed out such a program.

The real thing that we are after in community organization is to arouse community interests, discover, enlist, develop, and train local leaders and stimulate group action. For the doing of this we have no hard and fast plan. We seek the best way for the given circumstances. At present we are checking up. If we find our aims are being achieved we will go on. If not, we may have to work out another plan.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COUNCILS

JOHN R. HUTCHESON
Virginia Extension Service

County agricultural councils, or county agricultural advisory boards, as they are now better known in Virginia, are really extension organizations for working out county programs for agricultural development.

We in Virginia are not so fortunately situated as some of

you folks in states where you have only one general farm organization and all that you have to do is to work out a program in each county with the leaders in this organization and then get the leaders to take it to the farm men and women and boys and girls through well organized local units. We have in Virginia three general farm organizations and twenty general educational and commodity groups with a combined membership of approximately 75,000 people. In addition we have a state department of agriculture, a state division of markets and one or two local experiment stations all under different administrations. The leaders of many of these organizations and institutions were inclined to believe that no real constructive program could be carried out except with and through their particular organization. You can readily see that under those conditions it was impossible for our extension workers to apply the theory of working out a program with each community and then combining these community programs into county programs. The leaders of the farmers' union were not particularly anxious to see this work done in coöperation with the farm bureau and the leaders of the farm bureau were not particularly anxious to see it done in coöperation with the farmers' union, so we had to adopt another plan.

In developing a county extension organization in Virginia I suppose it may be said that we began at the top, and in spite of a great many theories to the contrary I am convinced that this is the most effective method of approaching the matter where a great many different organizations and institutions are concerned. We began with the theory that before you can get people to work together they must have a definite program.

Our first step was to call a preliminary meeting at the agricultural college of one representative from each agricultural organization and institution in the state and set before these representatives the necessity for a program of agricultural development for Virginia, based on a study of actual conditions. Every active state-wide organization and institution had a representative at this meeting. A whole day was spent in round-table discussions of the need of such a program and the best methods of working it out. At the end of these discussions there was unanimous agreement that a long-time program of agricultural development was needed, so the representatives

present formed a working organization known as the Virginia Agricultural Advisory Council and elected the director of the extension division, chairman.

The chairman of the State Agricultural Advisory Council was authorized to take whatever steps were necessary to work out an effective program. He immediately appointed sub-committees on agronomy, animal husbandry, poultry husbandry, dairying, horticulture, vegetable gardening, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, agricultural investigation, agricultural education and the rural home. Very careful study was given to the personnel of these sub-committees. Wherever possible, the president of the state-wide organization particularly interested was appointed as chairman, and a representative of the agricultural college or the state department of agriculture as secretary. For instance, the chairman of the committee on dairying was the president of the State Dairymen's Association, and the secretary was the head of the dairy department of the state agricultural college. The other members of the sub-committees were people who were particularly interested and had had special training along this special field.

The sub-committees were asked to make a careful study of existing conditions, and when the study was completed, to bring in definite recommendations for the improvement during the next five years. Fortunately, each sub-committee took its appointment seriously and went to work in earnest. Census statistics were studied, surveys made, and a number of meetings held. At the end of twelve months of such study, a second meeting of the State Agricultural Advisory Council was called and each sub-committee made its report and recommendations. These reports and recommendations were combined into what is known as the Five Year Program for the Development of Virginia's Agriculture. This is the only program ever worked out in Virginia that has the united backing of the agricultural press and every agricultural organization and institution within the state. The reason for this backing is that each agricultural agency in the state played a part in developing the program. All are coöperating for the development of Virginia's agriculture rather than for the promotion of any particular organization or institution.

After the long-time state program was developed, it was pre-

sented and explained to each of the agricultural organizations at their annual meeting. In every case these organizations gave the program their unanimous endorsement and pledged themselves to coöperate in carrying it out. In order to put the state-wide program into operation the next step was to organize county agricultural advisory councils and to work out long-time county programs. This was put into the hands of farm and home demonstration agents, advised by their district agents. They associated with them in this movement teachers of vocational agriculture and any other public officials particularly interested in agriculture.

After about 25 leading farm men and women and business people have been carefully selected, they are officially appointed by the director of the extension service. Representatives from every agricultural organization in the county are included in the appointments.

These county councils advised by specialists from extension service develop the long-time county programs. Then farm and home demonstration agents put them into operation. This is being done through the various local community groups. The local units of the farm bureau, the farmers' union, the dairy association, the coöperative education association, the homemakers' association, etc., are all being used. When the county program is presented at the local meeting those present are asked to criticize it and to make additional suggestions. In a number of cases they are asked to appoint demonstrators to take the lead in putting the program into practice in that particular community. No effort is made to fit the county program down over the community, but the material in the county program is of great help to the local people in working out a community program.

In counties where there are no local farm organizations we have used community committees very successfully. As standard community clubs they not only furnish a vehicle for carrying out the program in agriculture and home economics but consider health, education, religion, and everything else connected with the development of a more satisfying rural life. We have ten such standard community clubs in Virginia at present which have been in operation for one year or less. These clubs have monthly meetings and during the past year

have had an average attendance at each meeting of about 100 people. They are proving a very effective means of community development.

In summing up, let me say that the county advisory councils or boards are proving the most effective extension organizations ever tried out in Virginia. These boards are made up of representatives of all of the farm and home organizations operating in the county and therefore each organization feels that it has a definite responsibility in helping to carry out the programs developed. The chief weakness of the agricultural advisory board in the beginning resulted from there being no community organization charged with the definite job of putting the county program into effect. However, this is rapidly being overcome through the work of county extension committees and the organization of standard clubs.

STATE GOALS FOR FARM BUREAUS

MRS. E. RICHARDSON
The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

Iowa is purely an agricultural state. While we do have a few factory and industrial centers, Iowa leads in most of the agricultural products and in livestock. It is a matter of concern then for all of the Iowa folks to have the keenest interest in the farming industry. There is no other factor that has been in the position to interpret the farm situation, keep Iowa folks thinking, knowing and understanding urban and farm relations like the State Federation of the 100 county farm bureaus. I hold that this is one of the outstanding goals of our State Farm Bureau. We know we have realized direct and wholesome benefits to agriculture because of this influence, lowering of land valued for taxation, equalizing of taxes through stock reductions, and a growing sentiment for a new system of taxation favoring an income tax, representation on state boards and commissions through farm folks; increasing of state funds for experimental and research work, appropriations to encourage club work, better agricultural state fairs and many other favorable developments have been influenced by this interpretation by our State Federation of Farm Bureaus. All of Iowa must be interested in keep her leading industry sound economic-

ally and satisfied in her home life. The program of the State Farm Bureau must be and is built on the basis of the individual farm family. Each farm family must have a few essential goals to strive for if it would be a success and yield its greatest harvest; that of a fullness and richness of life.

There must be an adequate income, influenced by fertility of soil, efficient management and marketing control. There must be a constant source of enrichment through cultural and inspirational channels for the family. There must be a dignity and poise in the family unit, commanding the respect of other families. There must be the aggressive spirit that fears not to step in line to defend these home policies. There must be a coöperation of home spirit that will lose self identity to build group policies.

These things are essential for home building and necessary for group building. Each county farm bureau program is mutually the essence of this home program which has influenced farm homes in an almost unbelievable way in the past few years.

The State Federation crystallizing this sentiment, speaks with authority through the strength of 60,000 homes to declare these policies of happy and contented homes. The state goals must constantly be to strengthen our educational program to build up our resources through better soils, efficient production, better management, improved marketing, higher standards of living and home influences, and our aggressive policy for equalization of tax gathering, transportation tariffs and a representation on boards and commissions exercising governmental authority.

And last of all our state goal is to find its place in the National farm policy by lending every possible aid to sustain a national organization that shall correctly reflect the individual farm home. The State Federation with a directors' committee of one director from each county makes the state policies truly reflect each home. The State Federation places a high value on the spirit of coöperation with other state organizations and agencies. There is a most cordial coöperation between most of the progressive organizations and many fine pieces of mutually beneficial work have been accomplished. I believe that above all the goal in the Iowa Farm Bureau is not only individual development, but development for all.

Women of our Iowa Farm Bureau meet in convention once a year to plan for achievement along different lines of endeavor.

In music we try to have the townships sing together, learn the fine old classic songs and thus develop a real love for good music. In marketing we strive to have women in each township study marketing that pertains to that community.

Our ultimate goal is to have all 1,732 townships organized and active. Each group of women plans to make an especial study of parliamentary law and study citizenship and law enforcement. This makes organization easier you say, and assists in the real job of developing folks. Some one has said, "There is art, literature, science and history in bread club work. There is rythm and art in design and line of clothing project work. There is culture and art in the study of home furnishings." All combine in a program which enables farm folk to go on learning.

Men and women through farm and home projects and boys and girls through club work, are certainly continually broadening their cultural, moral, physical, social and inspirational horizons. The standards of farm life have been lifted up through adult education.

A RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

H. C. TAYLOR
The Vermont Commission on Country Life

England has for years had a rural development commission. Maine has a development commission. New York has an agricultural commission which is looking especially to problems of land utilization. While activities of the Vermont Commission on Country Life include the type carried on by most other rural development or planning commissions it gives more attention to the life of the people. The Vermont Commission engages the efforts of some two hundred citizens. This makes the undertaking less an official and more of a folk movement. Some development commissions appear to see first of all the land and to seek means of making use of the land. The Vermont Commission sees first of all the people and seeks ways and means of improving their well-being. The Vermont Com-

mission is interested in the economic resources and their better utilization but this interest is avowedly subordinate to its interest in the quality of the life of the people. Attention is given to agriculture, summer residence, forestry, the woodworking industries and other industries as sources of income for rural people but even more attention is given to living conditions in the home and the community, rural health, educational facilities for rural people, the rural church, citizenship, and the culture, the ideals and the aspirations of the people.

THE PHYSICAL BASIS

To provide a full understanding of the physical basis of life in Vermont, a reconnaissance soil survey of the state was commenced last June which it is hoped may be completed by this time next year. A relief model is being constructed, and charts are being made which show climatic conditions in the various parts of the state.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

Recognizing that the land basis is only a potential factor and that the quality of the people determines the character of the civilization of a given region, particular attention is being given to the study of the population of Vermont. The quality of the residual elements of the native Yankee stock is being studied. The substitution of foreign race elements for the native stock is being studied from the standpoint of its effect upon the quality of the life of the Vermont town and upon the ideals which have made the name of the Green Mountain state respected and loved throughout the nation. The population studies include the Eugenics Survey which was in progress under the direction of Dr. Perkins for two years prior to the organization of the Vermont Commission. In fact, the Comprehensive Survey which is being conducted by the Vermont Commission grew out of the work of the Eugenics Survey. This doubtless explains why the human factor and the life of the people is receiving unusual emphasis in our undertaking. In other states and nations, abandoned land or forest planting have been the starting point in the work of rural commissions. The hope is that their work will progress to the point where the

life of the people will be central and the utilization of the land incidental to human welfare.

A Program for Agriculture

The Committee on Agriculture of the Vermont Commission is working on a production program and a marketing program for Vermont farmers with a view to better conditions of work and better incomes. The work of this committee is carried on essentially as a part of the work of the State Agricultural College and the State Department of Agriculture.

Forestry

The Committee on Forestry with the State Commissioner of Forestry as an active member is working on a forestry policy for the state. Attention is being given to the question of the extent to which national, state and town forests should be developed. Especial attention is being given to the ways and means of encouraging good forestry practice on the part of owners of large areas of timber land held by private interests. The state policy with respect to the taxation of forest land is being carefully considered. The farm woodlot or forest areas operated in conjunction with farming are an important supplementary source of income of many Vermont farms. From the woodworking industries large numbers of farmers receive income for timber or for labor which supplements the income from the farm and provides a satisfactory living for a family where the farm income alone would be inadequate.

Summer Residents and Tourists

Summer residents and tourists who come to Vermont each summer to share our favorable summer climate and enjoy our unsurpassed scenery require hospitality. The providing of these guests of Vermont with food and lodgings is an important source of income for rural people. The effect of tourists and summer boarders upon life in farm homes and rural communities is being studied at first hand. An investigator has visited more than five hundred rural homes accommodating tourists or summer boarders, and her reports give a fairly accurate picture of the extent of this business, and its influence upon the equipment

of the house, upon the farming enterprises, upon the education of the family, and the general effect good or bad upon the life of the home and the community.

LAND UTILIZATION

In addition to these committees which are dealing with agriculture, forestry and summer residence, a committee on land utilization composed of representatives of these three committees has been formed. I am happy to find that in Vermont rural leaders look with satisfaction upon the return of land to forests unless that land is fitted for a type of farming which will support a satisfactory farm life. The purpose of the Land Utilization committee is to study conditions and formulate land policies relating to land regarding the use of which there is much uncertainty. Obviously, land utilization is not a problem where agriculture is the one use to which the land clearly should be put. Here developing efficient farm management is the problem. Neither is land utilization a problem where forestry is clearly the proper use. Here the problem is that of forest management. But in Vermont there are considerable areas where the use to which land should be put is uncertain. Land which was once used for farming but which is now being abandoned for that purpose because people can do better for themselves elsewhere is subject-matter for the committee on Land Utilization. Should these lands return to forests? Should they at the same time be used for summer residence, or can there be found some new form of agriculture well suited to this land?

In order to have a fact basis for considering these problems the Agricultural Experiment Station, the State Forester and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are coöperating in mapping the present land uses in fifteen towns where the right use of the land is in doubt. It is believed that these surveys will prove valuable in formulating rational policies for the utilization of the land resources of the state in a manner which will best promote the well-being of the people.

Let us now turn to the homes and the people.

LIVING STANDARDS

The living standards of rural people are being studied with a view to developing methods of initiating improvements in home

equipment, home environment and in the community life which will bring the highest cultural influence into rural life. Some of the major conditions of a high standard of life are being considered by special committees on rural health, education, religion, citizenship and ideals.

RURAL HEALTH

The Committee on Rural Health is studying the extent to which physicians, nurses and hospital facilities are accessible to the people of rural Vermont. The physicians are found largely in sixteen cities and larger villages. Are these physicians able to meet the needs of rural people? Are rural towns in a position to support resident physicians? If not, how can the rural health problem be solved? What is the place of the trained nurse in meeting the health needs of rural people? What is the place of hospitals or nursing centers in serving rural people? Obviously, these questions should not be answered without careful study. This study is in progress.

EDUCATION

The outstanding factor in determining the standards of culture and efficiency of rural people is education. A committee on Educational Facilities for Rural People is studying the school system of Vermont from the rural schools to the universities, not forgetting the libraries and the clubs. The topography of the state and the sparcity of population in many of the rural areas gives Vermont a rural school problem which she must meet in her own way. The town unit of organization in Vermont has resulted in a large number of small libraries. The serious problem is how to bring the efficiency of the modern librarian to these many libraries with their untrained, part-time librarians. This problem is being studied with the hope that some form of auxiliary service may be developed at moderate cost. This should combine the advantages of the present small library conducted by a member of the community who is thoroughly acquainted with the people of all ages and the benefits of the skill of the trained librarian in book selection and cataloging. Adult education in Vermont has made unusually fine progress in the fields of agriculture and home economics. A study is being made of

the various agencies which contribute to adult education in other fields with especial reference to cultural subjects. The grange, community clubs, music clubs, literary and discussion groups fostered by various agencies are being appraised and will be counselled with a view to enhancing their effectiveness in rural life.

RELIGION

Religion as an agency in rural civilization is recognized as having played an invaluable rôle. The Committee on Religious Forces is attempting to evaluate the work of the rural church of today and if possible find some means of restoring it to its former importance. While the physicians have moved out of the rural districts, the minister has remained. The rural minister is ill paid and yet the rural people cannot afford to pay more. Is the larger parish the solution? Is some different organization with local Sunday schools and central churches for preaching a better suggestion? The Roman Catholic church in Vermont has large parishes and the churches are full. The Protestants in Vermont have moved in the direction of eliminating duplication where there is room for but one church. The Baptist, the Congregational and the Methodist churches in particular have done noteworthy work in this regard. They deserve great credit and yet the problem of the rural church in Vermont is still unsolved. The Roman Catholic church is reaching its constituency far better than are the Protestant churches. It is to be hoped that the present decline of interest in religion is purely temporary. An agricultural leader recently said to me that he considered religion an essential in the life of a people, that either the church must recover its function in this regard or else some other agency for promulgating religious influence must be developed. The Committee on Religious Forces is seeking a way to make the rural church effective.

CITIZENSHIP

The relation of the State to the people is a matter of great importance. Our civic rights have been secured only after centuries of struggle for liberty and equality as citizens. Now that these rights have been secured without effort on the part of the present generation there is a tendency to take citizenship lightly.

Many rural people fail to exercise their privileges as citizens, others shirk their obligations. The Committee on Citizenship of the Vermont Commission has made a careful canvass of two Vermont townships for the purpose of ascertaining the conditions which lead to neglect of civic activities and the conditions conducive to good citizenship.

The Conservation of Vermont Traditions and Ideals

While the work of the Commission was being planned and after the foregoing topics had been outlined, there was a feeling on the part of some that there yet remained an intangible something which was needed to complete the undertaking. It had been noted that while "Vermont Specials" are run to advertise marble and granite, slate and talc, machinery and cloth, sugar and syrup, lumber and wood novelties, the cow and her product and the scenic attractions of mountains and lakes, that in fact no Vermonter is at his very best when his thoughts are on this plane. It is when the Vermonter speaks of the great characters in Vermont history and the contribution of Vermont to the life of the nation that he rises to his full stature and shows that exultation which enters not into the souls of men who deal only in material things. This undefined something which has for more than three half-centuries made the name Vermont thrill her people, whether at home or scattered to seed a nation, must not be overlooked in the work of the Vermont Commission. Thus it transpired that a committee has been organized to study Vermont traditions and ideals and to bring to the Commission that undefined spiritual reality which has been so effective in the life of the state and the nation, in order that it may have a definite part in shaping the plans for the years to come.

The Product

The Committees of the Vermont Commission are at work. The project was organized on a three-year basis beginning July 1, 1928. It is expected that the report will be completed by June, 1931. The major product, however, will not be the report but the attitude of mind of the two hundred participants on the various questions which relate to rural progress in Vermont. The final reports of the committees will constitute a program,

many sided and for the long future, for rural Vermont. Even as the period of fact gathering goes on, the beginnings of such a program will be gradually taking form, engaging the imaginations of the people and uniting them in common effort. It will not wait for nor be dependent upon the publication of a report nor the passage of new laws by the legislature, important as governmental enactments will surely be. It will be a program made by the people, for the people.

ADULT EDUCATION

RURAL ADULT EDUCATION AND CULTURE

JOHN WILLARD
American Association for Adult Education

Adult educational opportunity of the cultural sort is sadly lacking in rural America as compared with opportunity for education in agriculture and home economics. Experience has shown that formal adult education is difficult and costly to organize as a separate and independent service for rural populations. At the same time a great number of organizations whose avowed major interests lie in other fields include cultural elements in their programs. Parent-Teacher Associations, Women's Clubs, Community Clubs, Coöperative Buying and Selling Exchanges, the Rural Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A., the Auxiliary Societies of Churches, Luncheon Clubs, the Grange, Farm Bureau, and the Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics are experimenting, often unconsciously, with programs in the general field of adult education.

Coincident in time with this increasing interest in adult education is the nation-wide movement for community organization. The simpler primary groups—the family and the neighborhood—are no longer able to meet the needs of the rural people. Neighborhood consciousness has yielded to special-interest consciousness; the new groupings, based on much larger areas, focus on these special interests. Even the rural family is no longer the self-sufficient institution that it once was. Likewise the usefulness of many little towns is diminishing with the transfer of commercial, social, educational, health and religious activities to the larger towns. Rural people are aware that community life has become disorganized, and they seek to reëstablish community effectiveness by conscious effort for community organization. Such organization may take the form of a physical community center (often the well-planned high school plant), which serves the various interest groups, or of a community council or federation or conference of the various interest groups.

Two relationships or linkages appear upon study of rural organizations:

Cultural adult education is one of the functions of many existing organizations;

Community organization leads to interest in adult education, and vice versa.

Hence the best prospect of enlarging the adult educational opportunity for rural America lies at present in the improvement of the cultural services of existing agencies, including the public schools, the library and the Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics; in encouraging

community organizations to provide for adult education in the community program; in coöperative study and experiment with progressive communities to show more clearly the factors necessary to successful educational service. It must be recognized in such plans that a community may include a sizable town, several small towns, and much open country. It is probable that the more formal phases of adult education must localize in the towns, to which the people of the surrounding country will be obliged to go if they wish such formal education; and that only the informal phases of adult education can be developed in the distinctly rural communities.

TYPICAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE ADULT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

County Library.
Town Libraries.
High Schools and Consolidated Schools.
Parent-Teacher Associations and other parental educational groups.
Extension Service groups:
- Agriculture.
- Home Economics.
- 4-H Clubs (adult as far as leader training is concerned).

Women's Clubs.
American Association of University Women.
League of Women Voters.
Community Clubs.
Farmers' Clubs.
Luncheon Clubs.
Boards of Trade and Chamber of Commerce.
Ministers' Associations.
Laymen's League, Brotherhoods and Church Auxiliaries.
Y. M. C. A.; Y. W. C. A.; Y. W. H. A.; K. C.
Farm Bureau.
Grange.
County and Town Park Boards.
Historical Societies.
Museums.
Press.

TYPICAL ADULT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE FOREGOING ORGANIZATIONS, OF INDIVIDUALS, AND OF SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

Establishing and supporting local branches of the County Library by—
- Publicity.
- Displaying and loaning books at meetings.
- Gifts of books by organizations to library.
- Mobilizing magazines for circulation through local library.
- Mobilizing books for circulation through local library.
- Assisting in locating library and librarian service.

Reading-courses or reading-circles.
Concerts and private practice by—
- Community Chorus.
- Community Orchestra.
- Community Band.

Correspondence courses.
Self-study by organizations.
Discussion groups for course-study.

Forums.
Lectures and lecture courses.
Extension classes, probably around teacher groups, but with effort to secure courses of interest to others also.
Community self-analysis and self-scoring.
Dramatics.
Pageants.
Parental education in various forms.
Health demonstrations and clinics.

THE NEED FOR ADULT EDUCATION IN RURAL ORGANIZATION AS SEEN BY A FARM WOMAN

MRS. W. VAN BLOOM, Dayton, Iowa
Member of the Iowa Farm Women's Committee

When Farm Bureau first started its extension program in our community, an ex-school teacher was elected secretary of the local organization. She refused to serve or to attend the meetings because she "didn't believe the farm women needed to be uplifted any more than the town women did!"

Professor E. L. Thorndike, of Teachers' College, Columbia University, has said that adults learn much less than they might partly because they underestimate their power of learning and partly because of unpleasant attention and comment; also, he says, adults learn less than they might partly because they *do not care* enough about learning.

It seems to me we are steadily overcoming the first two handicaps Professor Thorndike mentions. The constantly increasing number of people taking advantage of correspondence courses and extension courses has lessened the unpleasant attention and comment, and through application adults are learning that minds are not adamant at the age of forty or over. The "*do not care*" handicap is harder to overcome and is really serious, for surely the very foundation of adult education is the recognition of the *need of* education and the *desire for* it. The attitude that the adult education program is an "uplift" program to enlighten the poor down-trodden farmer has been quite prevalent and I believe accounts for as large a percentage of those not participating as does the "do not care" attitude. The thing that so many of us fail to see is that with our rapidly moving civilization—our rapid advance along all scientific lines—the things we learned as young folks are apt to be out of date when we become middle-aged. Even though we may have had a college education we need continuous training in order to keep abreast of the times.

Thinking rural people recognize the need of adult education from an economic standpoint. It takes intelligence to maintain soil fertility; it takes intelligence to borrow money and not become the prey of unscrupulous credit corporations; it takes intelligence to understand the problem of tax readjustment; it takes intelligence to solve the problem of surplus control; it takes intelligence to sense the need of leaders with technical training; it takes intelligence to get together and to stick to-

gether in spite of unfriendly propaganda. We know that until we solve these problems and establish as facts soil fertility, adequate credits, equal distribution of taxes, and control of surplusses through employing skilled managers and by getting together and sticking together—until we do these things we will not be financially able to establish the high standard home and church and school that shall be the outward sign of our equality with people of other industries.

We recognize the need of adult education from a social standpoint. We see the practical need and cultural value of training in order that we may make our homes mentally stimulating and artistically satisfying. Bulletins and actual demonstrations offer us the opportunity of making use of the knowledge gained by the experiences of others. Taking advantage of these opportunities inspires us in the desire for further knowledge. If our lives are to be rich and full they demand this continuous addition of knowledge. An old Spanish proverb reads, "The pleasure of the senses pass quickly—those of the mind are ever with us, even unto the end of the journey."

Most of us are not naturally artistic but we can acquire good taste and an artistic sense through education along these lines. We feel the need of training to aid us in choosing correct line and design in home furnishings; in planting our dooryards and in farmstead improvement; in choosing pictures for the home and to help us appreciate the best in music and in art.

In our various communities we see the need of education to overcome prejudice. We see over and over again the proof of the statement, "Who knows the least and does the least criticizes the most freely." The biggest handicap in putting across any program of improvement is that of prejudice which is due to the lack of information. It has been said that real education makes one much more liberal toward opponents, much more tolerant of the mistakes of others, much more charitable toward weaknesses and toward those who fail. We need not merely the acquisition of more information but this genuine education to enable us to order our lives intelligently.

We need education in rural organization to teach social responsibility. All too few people recognize that the community depends on the individual and that for everything that happens in a community the best are ultimately responsible.

If Wendell Phillips was right and "the best education in the world is that got by struggling to get a living" it would seem that the last ten years should almost have perfected the education of the adult population of our rural districts. Speaking seriously, we believe that that very struggle has helped us to see, as nothing else could, the necessity for education. The emergencies of the times have challenged our intelligence and demonstrated to us the absolute necessity of well-directed coöperative as well as individual effort.

We have come to realize that "ignorance cannot solve the problem of rural life in the twentieth century"; we know there is only one remedy—true education—developing all the powers of man to the highest efficiency.

RADIO PROGRAMS AS THEY AFFECT RURAL ADULT EDUCATION

W. I. GRIFFITH
Director of Broadcasting Station WOI, Ames, Iowa

Madam Chairman and Members of the Adult Education Section of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the American Country Life Association:

When I was invited to give a brief statement on the assigned subject of Radio and Rural Adult Education, I began to wonder what I had to offer that would interest this group, and reached the conclusion that you will be interested in knowing some concrete examples of what the situation is within the broadcast range of WOI.

It may be well for a Program Director, of any station, to undergo a rigid introspection and ask himself what his purpose is and why his station is on the air.

Broadcasting stations may be classified as Commercial and Educational. As the name implies, the commercial station is maintained and its program organized in such a way that it may serve as a means of "selling" good will for its owner. After a few years of operation of radio stations it became apparent that there are not enough wave channels for broadcasting purposes to supply the demand of the institutions that would like to own and operate radio stations for publicity purposes. The alternatives now open to the person who is denied the privilege of owning a broadcasting station are either to do without radio broadcasting facilities, or to buy time of some company who does operate a broadcasting station and is willing to sell time.

As contrasted with Commercial broadcasting stations, we have the stations owned and operated in the interest of colleges and religious organizations whose purpose is to broadcast what they feel is helpful material.

If you will excuse a reference to our own station, we wish to state that WOI is owned and operated as a part of Iowa State College from funds arising through taxation. Since our support arises from taxes paid in Iowa, we are very much interested in being of service to all of the citizens of the state. Since radio energy is no respecter of state boundaries it follows that if we hope to have our program material reach the corners of the state with reliability, it must of necessity cover at least well into the territory of all adjacent states.

Every broadcaster wonders what his potential radio audience is, and of course, it depends upon many factors. One very definite factor is the number of receiving sets that are owned within his broadcast range.

We realize that statistics are rather uninteresting, but we feel that you will be interested in knowing that in Iowa on January 1, 1926, 20% of our farms were equipped with radio receiving sets. This number has increased year by year in spite of hard times, and financial depression. In 1927, 30% of the farmers of Iowa were using the radio. In 1928 the percentage was 36% and on January 1, 1929, there were 86,128 radio

receiving sets on the 210,310 farms of Iowa. This means 40.95%, or that there is one receiving set on each 2.76 farms. These data were collected by the township assessors for the purpose of collecting taxes on the value of the set and means that the number can not be too large and probably is too small, for the reason that all of the sets probably were not listed, and for the further reason that it does not take into account the number of receiving sets that have been purchased by farmers since January 1st. Taking these factors into consideration, we feel that it is a safe estimate to say that 50% of the farms of Iowa are now equipped to receive radio programs. It may be added that in securing these data the assessors were instructed to list as a farm a tract of land of three acres or more that is operated under one management and *used for agricultural purposes.*

We have tried to analyze the several specific functions of our station and feel that our programs should carry a maximum amount of information with enough entertainment to make the information acceptable.

For the year ending July 1, 1929, WOI was responsible for broadcasting 7,343 programs. Of this number 5,254 dealt with market quotations on livestock, grain, poultry, dairy products and weather reports. It depends upon the definition of ADULT EDUCATION as to whether or not these reports can be said to be contributing to the education of the Iowa farmer and shipper, but we do know, from thousands of flattering testimonials that they write to us, that they value the service very highly, as a means of getting "up to the minute" accurate and authentic reports upon which to base their business operations.

During the past year WOI broadcast 1,308 educational programs and 781 entertainment programs. The educational numbers have been provided by members of our own faculty and by distinguished visitors to our campus who had a message for our radio audience. The address of Governor Lowden, Secretary Hyde, Dr. Kenyon Butterfield and other distinguished members of this conference are being heard by thousands of our radio friends over the state. The lectures broadcast by our own faculty deal for the most part with subjects such as different phases of Agriculture, Home Economics, Engineering, Industrial Science, and Veterinary medicine on which the speaker is a recognized authority. Visitors from off the campus, who address our students at the Sunday chapel services, get an additional thrill when they know that their words of counsel and wisdom are being heard by thousands of parents who are interested in knowing all they can about the Institution where their son or daughter is attending college.

Our Librarians have sponsored two kinds of programs. At one period a competent member of the staff has reviewed outstanding magazine articles and given much valuable information. On several occasions an offer to loan some library material has resulted in duplicate copies of the book or source material being dated many months into the future.

Another very popular type of Library period has been that of having a young lady of pleasing personality and voice read chapters of good fiction. One of the most popular books read in this manner was "A

Lantern In Her Hand,'' written by Bess Streeter Aldrich. Hundreds of the most personal, intimate, and in many cases, even pathetic letters were received testifying to the pleasure that was afforded by the listener being able to get this form of entertainment.

Many novel schemes were given by the farm women as to the method used to get the program without loss of time. One lady reports that she has her loud speaker attached to a long drop cord and can carry it from room to room and even to the upstairs bedrooms so that she need not miss a word of the program she wanted to hear while going about her household duties. Other women report that they so plan their work that they can prepare the vegetables for the next meal while listening to the program and still others do the family mending at this time; and since it has brought about a planning and consequent regularity in doing the house work that there now seems to be more time to do the tasks that never used to get done at all; and that ''friend husband'' seems to have a more amiable disposition because his socks are now always darned and his meals planned and prepared on time.

A part of the programs, 781 to be specific, were devoted to some form of entertainment. The programs varied widely in nature, some of them being vocal or instrumental concerts by students and faculty working under the direction of members of our faculty of the department of music. Thousands of listeners testify to the pleasure they derive from hearing a realistic play by play description of our athletic events. Several hundred concerts were given in which phonograph records of the better type of music are broadcast, until it is now the established custom of nearly one million people to rise and eat breakfast while listening to the better type of music.

About a year ago, the announcer made the statement that there had been some pressure exerted by the friends of jazz music to have the classical music discontinued and the program changed to broadcasting the so-called popular music, and that we would like to hear from our listening public, and that their opinions would be taken into consideration in formulating our future musical program. Well, we heard from the public all right. Out of the first 1,000 letters received, you will be interested to know that 963 asked for a continuance of the classical, semi-classical, and better type of record, 30 asked for the so-called ''popular music,'' and seven in a spirit of being a good sport, suggested that we make a 50-50 division and play some of each type of music. Many of these letters were long and went into the arguments in the most painstaking manner as to why we should continue the better type of program. Some of the reasons mentioned, were that, since WOI is a College Station, they were entitled to hear from it only the best music. Others, that it was a positive uplift in music appreciation and that it started the day's work out right. Since 96.3% is as near an unanimous expression as we can well hope to get from the public, we are happy to state that we have continued the better type of program. The interesting sidelight on this situation is that over half of the responses asking for the better selections

comes from men and women on farms and that this proves rather conclusively to our satisfaction that the rural people are as enthusiastic in support of the finer music as the people who dwell in the cities and villages. It is also our conviction that the broadcaster is missing his guess who feels that he has to "play down" or let down in any particulars when addressing a radio audience presumably consisting largely of rural people. They not only do not enjoy the program but resent the implication that they cannot appreciate the finer things of life. The general truth of the above statement is further borne out by the statement made by Walter Damrosch, the leader of the world-famous Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra following a most marvelous series of concerts on music appreciation. You perhaps heard all or a part of them as they were broadcast over the member stations of the National Broadcasting Company. Without meaning to "rub it in" on our friends and visiting delegates from other states, it is a source of satisfaction to the people from the "state where the tall corn grows" to know that Professor Damrosch makes the following unsolicited comment:

"I have received more letters and telegrams of appreciation from Iowa than from any other state in the Union. This shows the discriminating taste of radio listeners in Iowa."

While this is entertainment of the finest type, we also believe it is Adult Education of the highest type.

METHODS OF DEVELOPING A LOCAL ORGANIZED PROGRAM OF ADULT EDUCATION

M. E. OLSON

The Cerro Gordo County Farm Bureau, with which I am most familiar, has developed a program including all phases of work. Plans for this program were made by a committee representing all farm interests in the county. This committee consisted of officers and managers of coöperative marketing organizations, women who had been active in home project and farm bureau work, boys and girls 4-H club leaders, parents of boys and girls 4-H club members, leaders in community plays and dramas, dairymen, swine breeders, beef breeders, women who were especially interested in poultry, farmers who were leaders, in soil building and crop production.

This committee considered the needs of the county and drafted a balanced program for the entire farm family. Now a county program is divided into major and minor projects. The major projects are those of county-wide interests and upon which the county organization as a whole centers its activities. The minor projects are those of local interest in the township organization and frequently vary in the different townships. However, very often a minor project of one year becomes a major project a few years later. For instance: weed eradication was a minor project during 1927, 1928 and 1929, while in 1930 it is to be a major project.

Five major projects were selected for the 1930 program of Cerro Gordo

County, these included marketing, nutrition, weed eradication, boys and girls 4-H club work and a drama contest. In selecting these projects, the committee had in mind the whole farm family. They feel that there should be no gulf between the work of the members of the family, but a common interest. The women are as much interested in marketing and general farm problems as are the men. The men should be equally interested in the problems of the home, and both are interested in the boys and girls.

With this in mind, it was recommended that each township appoint a program committee and that the committees in planning the program, include each of the major projects in their township program and that their minor projects be selected on the basis of local interest. The local interest in the project is determined by ballots. The members are asked to check the projects in which they are most interested. This gives the local township committee a guide in making up the program, as well as in choosing the leaders according to their interests.

Early in the development of an adult education program for the county, we had a committee representing the entire county. This year, committees are being selected in the individual townships to carry on the program that has been adopted on a county-wide basis. In addition to this, committees are being selected in every major project. To illustrate what I mean: In the organization of our 4-H clubs, during the past we had a committee consisting of five men on the boys' club committee, and five women on the girls' club committee. These committees planned the entire program for the county and were in charge of its development. The responsibility was placed upon ten people.

Ten years ago, the 4-H club program was that of county agent, who was the committee and who was responsible for the entire program. As the work developed, more help was needed and more people had been educated to what 4-H club work meant in their communities. This year, instead of the county agent or the committee of ten planning the county program, we will have a representative from each township on the county club committee, or 32 people in all. Then again, each township will have at least three members on their 4-H club committee who will help develop the local club program in each township or community. So, through the growth from ten years ago, the county agent being the club committee, there will be 48 people on club committees in the county.

As the program develops, it is necessary to distribute the responsibility. One of our biggest problems in developing a rural and adult educational program with local leadership, has been that the demand for work has grown more rapidly than we could secure responsible leaders who are able to give sufficient time to the program in that we usually select leaders who are active in other rural community work, as well as school and church, and who are very much interested in their homes and their community. There has been a tendency for us to overwork these people, or rather to ask for too much of their time away from their business. Even though we may feel that our work is absolutely essential and will pay big returns to the community or to the individual farmer or farm wife, the first duty of the leader is to his home and his business. Unless a leader is a success-

ful farmer or successful homemaker, who is an example in the community, the leadership of that person fails. We oftentimes have men and women who are willing to do the work, however, they do not have the standing in their own community on account of their poor farming or poor home management.

In all of our educational work, community pride is essential. However, we should guard against too much community pride; that is, to such an extent that the community becomes provincial or self-centered. Our big problem in developing a rural agricultural program that will spread over the entire county is the breaking down of geographical lines that have been established. We must look upon a program in adult education as a means of broadening the farmers and enabling them to work with other farmers and communities to solve the many problems which surround him. I believe that a county program in which all townships in the county participate on at least three or four programs, is essential. I believe that some sectional program should be worked out, in which every township and every county in similar sections in the United States would center their efforts. In this way we would all have common interest, that of working for a united agriculture and would feel that we were all working on one common problem.

TYPES OF ADULT EDUCATION IN THE FARM AND HOME BUREAUS

MRS. KATHRYN VAN AKEN BURNS

At the time of the formation of the Farm and Home Bureau organizations, the old institute short-course type of adult education, in which a speaker from away gave a more or less formal speech, followed by a question box, was beginning to wane. Trained farm and home agents began to appear with the Farm and Home Bureau organizations. In fact, in many states the development of the county agent type of adult education runs concomitantly with the development of the Farm or Home Bureau or both.

In the states in which I have happened to work the Extension Service of the State College which has sponsored county agent work, has been so closely allied with Farm and Home Bureau work that it is difficult to know definitely whether a certain activity should be credited to the Bureaus in the Extension Service. So in this talk when referring to the Bureaus, I shall be referring to county organizations organized coöperatively with the state colleges of agriculture or the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is probably safe to say that every type of adult education known to be in existence, oral, written or visual has been tried in Farm and Home Bureau work. However, a few types of adult education have been used generally enough with sufficient success to make them stand out.

In one type, the farms or home agent acts as an itinerant teacher. At first the agents had to work largely with individuals in what might be called the personal consultation method but later as they became better

known they gained the confidence of the people and they began to work with groups. The demonstration idea has been a dominant educational method from the time the work centered about the eradication of the boll weavil until today, probably for the reason that people whose own educational activities have been arrested for several years seem more easily to comprehend an idea that can be demonstrated rather than one they read about and hear described. The women who has seen or perhaps participated in a demonstration on the selection of textiles grasps principles that make her a more intelligent operator of the family income.

However, the successful agent makes use of news stories, bulletins, movies, exhibits, trees, and countless other educational devices in an educational program of the bureau. The good farm or home agent is a teacher of people and not merely a transmitter of facts. While many improved practices in agriculture or home economics are directly traceable to these agents, one of the most important forms of adult education that results from their endeavors is the changed attitudes of farm men and women. The agent who lives in a county knows the people and their needs and it is this personal contact that develops confidence, the forerunner of an open mind and interest. The program is built with the people from their local needs. It pertains to their daily experience, a principle that is now recognized as essential in modern educational theory.

A second type of adult education found in the Farm and Home Bureau program is that in which a specialist from the college is largely responsible for giving subject-matter information. I believe we would all agree that occasional contact with a specialist in any field is stimulating to all of us.

However, the type of adult education that is becoming distinctive of farm and home bureau organization is that in which a trained local leader assumes responsibility for some educational project in his community. You will notice I said "trained" local leader. Experience has proved that leader training is essential even if the leader be a person with considerable background of knowledge or experience in the particular field. The training is usually given by a specialist from the college or by the local farm or home agent and this is not only given to subject-matter but to laboratory work and educational method that the leader can use.

In two or three days it is usually possible to train enough leaders to handle a project in all communities of a county. Thus the work of the agent is multiplied. Important as this multiplication of effort is, it is not the greatest result of local leadership. At the training school in contact with the specialist or agent he usually gets a new conception and a new viewpoint of the project whether it be selection of seed corn or parental education. His intellectual curiosity is aroused and he acquires that inner urge that makes him want to go on and do something for himself.

When he returns to his community he knows he has the responsibility of presenting the project to his own community and this develops a feeling of relationship to his community. The actual presentation gives him confidence in himself and his own ability. Then is usually created the desire to go on and learn more about related fields that have opened up in the unfolding of the project. One woman actually reported reading the books

and bulletins on a certain subject after her initial interest had been aroused. Leadership stimulates intellectual curiosity and the desire to go on learning.

It is a truism in Farm and Home Bureau work that where local leadership has been developed in project work that there is no difficulty in finding officers to be responsible for the organization.

We realize many eminent educators feel that adult education proceeds more rapidly when it is not hindered by organization which may tend to become an end and not the means. Is it not possible that this is more true in urban communities than in rural ones where there are fewer organizations to dissipate one's energies? We feel that participation in the Farm and Home Bureau had been of itself, educative for rural people and a most important type of adult education in rural communities. Participation in the organization has brought an awakening of the individual which in turn means an awakened community conscience. This awakened community conscience is resulting in more 4-H clubs for boys and girls, a greater interest in books and library facilities of the rural community, better rural health conditions, a more intelligent interest in the rural school, better recreation and the countless other things that bring life more abundantly.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

TYPES OF HEALTH PROGRAMS

HENRY ALBERT, M.D.
Commissioner, Iowa Department of Health

Practically every kind of public health work, that has met with a reasonable degree of success elsewhere, has been tried in Iowa. Enthusiastic and capable persons here and there have conducted certain kinds of programs with a variable degree of success.

The following are the more important types of public health programs carried on in Iowa:

1. *The Prevention of Communicable Diseases.* This pertains, of course, to all communicable diseases. Special attention has, however, been given to the reduction of certain diseases. During the past year a division of preventable diseases was established in the State Department of Health. The director in charge is also the epidemiologist, who aims to investigate all serious epidemics of communicable diseases which occur in the state.

2. *The Campaign Against Tuberculosis.* This campaign was started about twenty-five years ago, and has been conducted along the lines similar to those waged in other states. Most of the work has been done through the voluntary state Tuberculosis Association, which derives most of its funds from the sale of Christmas Seals. The State Department of Agriculture has also been very active in its campaign to eradicate tuberculosis from domestic animals, the campaign being directed, primarily, at the eradication of tuberculosis among cattle. In a large portion of the State, all cattle have been tested with the tuberculin test, and those found infected, destroyed.

3. *The Eradication of Diphtheria.* In addition to the well-known methods, the state Department of Health, with the aid of a number of voluntary agencies, has, during the past few years, conducted an active campaign of diphtheria eradication through the immunization, with toxin-antitoxin, of all susceptible children. It is estimated that more than one-half of the children of the State have been immunized. There has, of course, been a corresponding decrease in the number of cases and deaths from that disease.

4. *Typhoid Fever.* Reduction in the number of cases of this disease has been brought about, chiefly, through an improvement of the water supplies. The field work, conducted by the Engineering Division of the State Department of Health, and the laboratory work in water analyses made at the state hygienic laboratory at the University, has resulted in a very marked improvement in the water supplies of the state. The State Department of Health is now engaged in a special survey of the water

supplies of cities with the idea of having signs for the guidance of the traveling public, placed along the highways.

5. *Sanitation in General.* The Engineering Division of the State Department of Health has been very active in connection with general sanitary work. They have been particularly active in the investigation of factors that are causing pollution of our streams and the correction of such situations.

6. *Venereal Disease.* It is estimated that about 10,000 persons are under treatment for venereal disease in Iowa, all of the time. The situation in Iowa differs probably slightly, from that in other states. The State Department of Health, in coöperation with the medical profession, and local health authorities, have made special efforts to limit the spread of venereal disease in certain communities. The aid given by the state has consisted chiefly of supplying drugs without charge for the treatment of indigent patients.

7. *Prevention of Blindness.* The State Department of Health supplies physicians of the state, without charge, silver nitrate for the treatment of the eyes of the newborn for the prevention of blindness which occasionally results from infection at that time.

8. *Infant Hygiene.* The Sheppard-Towner Division of the University has, during the past six years, conducted work in connection with maternal and infant hygiene.

9. *Summer Round-Up Campaign.* This campaign sponsored by the Congress of Parents and Teachers, aims at having all children, who are to enter school for the first time, examined by a competent physician and dentist, and having all remediable defects corrected before the child enters school. The Congress of Parents and Teachers deserves great credit for sponsoring this very important type of work. During the past year, more than 200 Parent-Teacher organizations conducted the work in their communities.

10. *4-H Club Work.* Closely related to the Summer Round-Up Campaign is the work conducted by the 4-H Clubs, which, as you know, are conducted through farm bureaus. Their plan of health examinations is especially commendable.

11. *Nutrition Work.* Work in promoting better nutrition among the farm children of the State carried on by the Home Economics Section of the State College, at Ames, has been very effective.

12. *May Day.* During the past few years, great stress has been given to the observance of the National Child Health Day, known as May Day. Child health is deservedly receiving greater and greater attention. The promotion of May Day activities under the Chairmanship of Miss Edith S. Countryman, Director of Public Health Nursing, in the State Department of Health, has done much to stimulate interest in this very important subject.

13. *School Health.* For a number of years, special attention has been given to physical education in Iowa schools. During recent years, more and more stress has been placed on the importance of having the school

connection serve as a means of preventing disease and promoting better health as well as providing for education.

14. *Dental Hygiene.* Dental Hygiene work has been carried on in a number of places, chiefly, through the schools under the general direction of the State University.

15. *Protection of the Public Through Occupations and Professions, Licensed to Practice in the State.* The state, through its Health Department, provides inspection service for barber shops and cosmetology establishments (beauty parlors) to make as certain as possible that they will not be the sources of infectious diseases. The State Department of Health also has an inspector whose duty it is to investigate violations of various practice acts. This has a distinct public health bearing, in that many violators, such for instance, as so-called cancer specialists, do a great deal of harm.

16. *Public Health Nursing.* Public Health nursing service is well organized in certain parts of the state. There are, however, a great many communities where it is very inadequate. The general direction of the public health nursing is carried on by a person loaned to the State Department of Health by the State Tuberculosis Association.

17. *Emergency Health Work,* especially in connection with floods and other disasters. This is provided for chiefly by the Red Cross. It is well organized and efficiently administered.

Although some outstanding public health work has been done here and there by individuals and organizations, especially interested in a certain subject, the great need in Iowa is a well organized system of public health administration.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF RURAL HEALTH AND WELFARE WORK

J. H. BRIDGENS
Hardin County, Iowa

In speaking of distinctive features my remarks are confined chiefly to outstanding accomplishments which come within the experience of our own county. I trust that other rural communities are employing with equal success the agencies which tend to improve health and citizenship in general.

Residence in rural districts is of itself no guarantee of good health. Physical examinations during the late war proved that fact true. The commonwealths of our nation are instituted for the protection and general welfare of all citizens with authority at all times to function for the public good. It has been found from experience that voluntary and charitable effort along the lines indicated in the subject does not meet fully all of the essentials of health and happiness. Therefore, it is fitting that governmental agencies should with certain limitations assist in promoting better health and better homes.

Intelligent voluntary effort, hand in hand with state agencies function admirably with constant uplift. At the outset we might concede that all features of successful effort either public or voluntary, or both, are distinctive features. The primary feature is to arouse the interest of rural communities to the importance of health and welfare work and then develop leadership and organization.

However, there are evidences of commendable effort attendant with pleasing results. Witness a rural county with small towns and cities, a total population under 25,000; the public officials, the county supervisors and school boards supplementing Red Cross funds in sufficient amount to finance throughout the school year two Red Cross public health nurses.

Observe a brief summary of the work over a two-year period; the nursing activities committee composed of the county superintendent of schools, a county board member and two or three county Red Cross Chapter officials.

REPORT

(A) Visits to or in Behalf of Cases—1,558 of which 1,423 were for school children.
(B) Total Visits to Homes—651.
(C) School Visits:
  1. First Visits to classrooms—446.
  2. Revisits to classrooms—314.
  3. Other visits to schools—86.
(D) Visits in Behalf of Nursing Service—253.
(E) Interviews in Nurses' Office with or in Behalf of Cases—354.
(F) Clinics and Conferences:
  Number Sessions—26.
  Attendance—442.
(G) Classes:
  Type—Home Hygiene.
  Class Periods—82.
(H) Other Educational Work:
  1. Talks to teachers and parent-teacher association—22.
  2. Talks to other (exclusive of classroom talks)—18.
  3. Special Features.
(I) Immunization Work:
  1. Number given Toxin Antitoxin (nurse assisting)—560.
(J) Analysis Work in Schools:
  1. Number classrooms inspected—1,721.
  2. Number children examined by doctor (nurse assisting)—146.
  3. Number children given full inspection by nurse—8,429.
  4. Number children partially inspected by nurse—1,429.
  5. Number children with defects—4,021.
  6. Number children who have had defects corrected—1,692.
  7. Number children excluded for pediculosis—18.

This same county is now carrying on a rural school dental program following an extension plan of the state university. This program is under the general supervision of the county superintendent of schools whereby schools and individual pupils receive recognition for coöperation.

Further, note in the same county a Social Service League joining with the county board in securing a trained social worker to administer indigent relief; a medical society composed of all physicians and surgeons of the

county, and a dental organization, both under contract to respond to the call of the trained social worker. All three of these are functioning largely at public expense and complementing the work of the public health nurse particularly in indigent cases.

An idea of this work is given as follows:

Number of Children cared for at the expense of the county—18.
Number of Children with defective throats reported by Nurse to Social Service Worker—31.
Number of Cases where the parents paid county price according to contract with Medical Society—7.
Number of Cases where parents refused Medical Care—6.
Number of Children with defective eyes reported by Nurse—21.
Number of Cases corrected at the expense of Social Service League—12.
Number of Cases where parents paid reduced prices—2.
Number of Cases in which parents refused Medical Care—7.
Number of Children needing Dental Care—23.
Number of Cases Cared For—20.
Number of Cases in which parents refused Dental Care—2.

County Nurses in visiting homes to see parents regarding medical care for children often find social problems in the home which they feel should be reported to the Social Service League. The Social Worker may in turn refer cases to the county nurse. On her visits in the homes of some of her families she may find a mother sick in bed. An older child in the home or the husband is trying to care for her and do the work. An occasional visit by the Nurse to bathe the patient and make her more comfortable is made.

The nurse often finds cases of crippled children who should be receiving attention. By referring the matter to the Social Worker arrangements are made for the child to go to Iowa City for treatment.

It is indeed gratifying to the public officials of this county to know that the efforts exerted to accomplish these so-called distinctive features are fully appreciated by the rural population. At an annual meeting of the township trustees a vote of approval was given the year's labors of the social worker and a resolution by the County Farm Bureau commended the county officials and others responsible for instituting the changed policy in the administration of relief to the indigent.

THE FARM BUREAU AND THE SOCIAL AGENCIES

MRS. O. E. MILNER
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

The educational program for women, as conducted by the Extension Service of Iowa State College in coöperation with the County Farm Bureaus, consists of a number of so-called projects, namely: nutrition, clothing construction, home furnishing, home management and child care. In every county, in every township, in practically every school district in Iowa, the women are interested in some one of these studies in better home methods. The teaching is done by extension specialists, home demonstration agents,

and farm women who are receiving special training for this work. Every one of these projects has its bearing upon health. Most direct in its influence, of course, is the study of nutrition. Last year in 36 of our Iowa counties, 47,661 women studied nutrition in a non-technical but very practical and thorough way. The results are interesting. Reports show 6,680 families using more whole cereals; 7,905 using more milk and milk products; 7,726 more fruits and vegetables; 8,944 improved methods in balancing family diet for the first time. All over the state, women are gardening for good nutrition, canning for good nutrition, raising the standards of cooked foods, making a careful study of Infant Feeding and of diet for the pre-school child and the child of school age. Are reducing the amount of meat and sugar in the daily diet, are studying and correcting the problems of underweight and overweight in members of their families, and in all these ways building health through good nutrition. Working with the Boards of Education, with the rural teachers, and with the Parent Teachers' Association, 933 additional rural schools started the use of hot school lunches.

Last year more than 8,000 persons attended classes in the course in child care and training which puts special emphasis on right health habits and the correction of faulty postures, rickets, and other physical defects.

Correct clothing, also, has its influence upon health as have many of the suggestions concerning placing of lights, colors used in the home, the correct height of sinks and work tables, and the best arrangement of the things with which we work. The Iowa farm woman who learned from a pedometer that she was walking five and one-half miles a day while doing her work and who through proper rearrangement of her kitchen and a very small expenditure of money, cut her daily mileage in two, reduced materially the drain on her health and strength.

Health is a definite part of our 4-H club program. Here the health work is made especially attractive. Zest is given by definite scoring where club members score themselves using a card which gives a fixed number of points for the observance of each health habit. Health contests are conducted in each county and these are followed by a state contest. Great interest attends the selection of the champion health boys and girls who are to compete in the state and national contests. Health talks, plays, and pageants are included in the club program. Phases of nutrition were studied in 1928 by 2,068 girls in canning clubs and 1,718 girls in bread clubs. In addition to all this, special attention is paid to good posture from the viewpoint of health as well as of good appearance and to correct foot wear and the proper care of the feet. Every club program must include a health number.

Since sanitation, perhaps, is second only to right nutrition in preventing disease, the county agricultural agent is able to advise concerning plans for proper sanitary conditions in rural environments.

A number of the Iowa counties have erected public general hospitals as provided by the Hospital Act of 1909. Notwithstanding the fact that these hospitals are built and partially maintained by public funds raised by a property tax, the county Farm Bureau has been sympathetic toward the

movement because it realized that hospital care often is not only more efficient than home care; it is less expensive, as well.

Systematic work in social welfare is only in its infancy in the rural districts of Iowa but it is growing rapidly. Already nineteen counties have social welfare organizations with trained secretaries to take care of poor relief, delinquency and other rural social problems in the most efficient way. At the tenth annual convention held in January, 1929, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation endorsed the principle of establishing county boards of health and welfare to coördinate the agencies working toward public health and social welfare. To all these ends the Iowa Farm Bureau lends its best efforts because it realizes that the real prosperity, the real happiness of our rural population is based not so much upon the economic success of our industry as upon the strong bodies, clean minds, and fine ideals of our farm people.

NUTRITION PROJECTS AND HEALTH PROGRAMS

MISS MARY-ELLEN BROWN
Lincoln, Nebraska

To live an abundant life appeals to each of us. The desire to live is born with us; also the desire to enjoy as many life satisfactions as possible. In Extension work we like to use the terms "abundant life" and "life satisfactions" for both are expressions full of meaning. There is no need to tell an audience of this kind that to have an abundant life and to enjoy life satisfactions one needs to have health and to be well nourished. Health and good food habits are fundamental for abundant living. Without them one is greatly handicapped.

Women everywhere are realizing more and more that health and nutrition are important and have asked the extension service for assistance. In response to the requests each state has worked out plans for helping the homemakers. I have been asked to tell you what and how the work has been done. My experience has been in Nebraska. Some states have been able to accomplish more than we, while others have not done as much.

In Nebraska, nutrition projects have been carried on with the 4-H club members and with the women. In the 4-H club work there have been food clubs, canning clubs, hot lunch clubs and keep-well clubs. There has been a health problem each year which has gone to every club member—boys as well as girls. The county and state health contests have been a splendid help in promoting health. In the women's projects the first one given was a series of lessons on "Foods for Health" and now the women are studying a second series. Another project which was popular because it was so valuable was the one on the "Home Care of the Sick." Health habits and sanitation were a part of this project.

In the past two years, 1,950 women have completed these two series of projects. Does it not mean much to a family to have the mother studying about what to serve her family to keep them feeling fit, to have them eat-

ing the food that will help them to accomplish their work easily and happily and with less fatigue? I believe you will all agree with me that *this is important* and that rural women are having happier homes because of such study.

Let me briefly mention another project we had with the women which was a valuable one. It was called "Home Care of the Sick." At first some of the women said they did not care for such a project because they thought the demonstrations would be the same as the Red Cross work during war times. It was not long until they were enthusiastic about it for the project included so many valuable demonstrations which could be used frequently in the homes. Some of these demonstrations were on the daily care of the patient, his food, medicine and treatments. What to do for first aid and for emergencies were studied, also personal hygiene. Two of the other demonstrations were forming a community health conscience and developing the school health conscience.

Let us think for a few minutes about what is being done in the 4-H clubs toward setting worthwhile standards in nutrition and health. Without doubt you will agree with me that the 815 girls who completed either the first or second year of the cooking club project or the first or second year of the canning club project have better standards of food preparation, of food values, of table service and home courtesies than if they had not been 4-H club members. I am especially happy when listening to a food demonstration team if they show the audience that they wash dishes happily and are following good rules of sanitation. Think how many, many times these girls will make use of their training in dish washing. Suppose they wash dishes only once a day for 10 years. They would make use of the habits formed 3,650 times. If they wash dishes 3 times a day for 30 years, it would be 10,950 times.

There is the character-building side to the club work that is so important. These three mottoes of club work are typical of the spirit that is developed: "Make the Best Better," "Shoot Square," and "Win Without Bragging and Lose Without Squealing." Standards such as these develop character but they also build health for being happy, cheerful and at peace with one's self is conducive to better health. Health is one of the 4-H's in the club emblem and is as important as any of the other H's, perhaps it is the most important of all.

Two other types of clubs have been having their effect upon boys and girls. They are the hot-lunch clubs and the keep-well clubs. Last year there were 640 boys and girls who completed the hot-lunch club work. I was told that in a single county nine clubs served 13,839 meals during one winter. Having the hot food together with the food study found in these problems, helped many of the boys and girls to be nearer average weight, to balance their diet better, to feel better and to study better.

The keep-well club demonstration problems were prepared for boys and girls who especially wanted to study health habits. The past year there were 147 members who completed the project. They studied posture, the teeth and their care, red blood and how we get it, bodily cleanliness—outside and in, making our bodies grow strong, the care of the body windows,

feet—their use and care, the healthy mind and sound health, is our best defense against the enemy. We have had some good demonstration teams at the State Fair which have come from the keep-well clubs. The state club leader reported there was a growing interest in these clubs.

I am leaving until the last another of the vital forces which is working toward better health and that is our health problems pamphlets. These problems have been used for the past five years. The title of the first one was "Every Club Member His Own Best Exhibit," another was on posture, the one last year was a study about teeth. The health problems are sent to every club member in June and are followed by the county and state health contests. In these contests the boys and girls are given thorough physical examinations. To enter the state contest they must first have won out in a county contest. The tendency now is to have the boy or girl win out in a club contest before they will be eligible even to enter the county contest. Has anything happened in a long time which will help boys and girls to have physical examinations at least once a year as these 4-H health contests have done? There is a big future before this health work. Last year there were 32 county champions who entered the state contest while this year there were 66 county champions. Because there were so many this year they were divided into two classes, those who were 15 and over and those who were under 15 years of age. The state contest is growing in popularity and is conducted by the State Medical Association and by the State Dental Society. These state-wide organizations designate the doctors that are to conduct the examinations. In several of the county contests the state and county associations assist. The boy and girl who score the highest in the state contest are given a trip to Chicago.

COUNTRY DOCTORS AND THE COST OF MEDICAL CARE

E. E. MUNGER, M.D.

I am to discuss country doctors and plans and experiences in the development of county hospitals.

Originally the plan was to get a county hospital in Clay County, Iowa, and at the same time make it possible for any other county to do likewise. In 1909, the legislature of Iowa passed a law providing that the people of counties might tax themselves for the purpose of building county public general hospitals. Experience to date is that Clay County has none, having twice voted no on the proposition. But, like Banquo's ghost, the question will not down nor the need disappear; earnest committees are still at work determined to have a community hospital of some approved kind.

Since 1910 several counties in Iowa have established county public general hospitals and many have been established in other states, under one plan or another until, according to the eighth annual (1929) presentation of hospital data by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals

of the American Medical Association, "There are at least some county hospitals in every state except Mississippi and Rhode Island," and "they show a constant increase from year to year." Of course many of these recorded county hospitals have been in existence a long time, are located in cities and are for the care of the indigent sick. I know of no available statistics giving the number of public general hospitals built with the idea of making possible adequate medical and surgical service for the people of rural communities. There are many community hospitals which are rendering a noteworthy service and some privately owned hospitals which have merit within the limit of their possibilities.

Country Doctors? What are they? Born and reared like other men and women, educated and trained like city doctors, what makes the distinction? How often does it happen that some country doctor appears in the city and his name is found inscribed high on the scroll of physicians and surgeons who have been an honor to their profession and of inestimable value to society? How much has the city hospital had to do with making his service and ascent possible? He found there the same human anatomy, affected by the same pathology, that he waved a fond goodbye to when he felt the call to go where the going at least looked better. How great has been the loss of health, wealth, happiness and life, how handicapped have been potential city doctors, because of the lack of adequate health and hospital facilities in rural America? There are no reliable statistics on this point, but the figures of those who estimate and speculate are appalling.

Just why country people should provide themselves, or be provided with, anything less than class A hospital facilities is not quite clear to me and why anyone should propose to provide inferior doctors for country folk may always remain an enigma. Certainly the proponents do not contemplate casting their lot with the tillers of the soil.

The cost of medical care in rural counties and elsewhere is a matter of much concern and now being given an intensive five-year study by the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care, under the direction of Dr. Harry Moore, who was to have addressed this conference today. The results of this study should be enlightening and most helpful. Whatever the report may be, there will be one conclusion that cannot be escaped, viz.: That prompt and proper medical and surgical treatment of many conditions is not to be had at any price by a very great number of rural people. The United States Department of Agriculture, in a pamphlet on Rural Hospitals, prepared by Wayne C. Nason, recognizes that "Farm people have long been neglected in health matters. Even the poorest classes in the cities have been better served, with free clinics, dispensaries, and hospital service at their command.....The country doctor is becoming a thing of the past. The young graduate in medicine, with his expensive long-time specialized training, prefers the city, where the aids found in a modern hospital are available. But the farmer does not want charity. This is made manifest by the way in which rural people are taking the initiative in erecting, through public subscriptions or voluntary taxation, county, town or community hospitals."

Mere hospitals with four walls and beds are not all that rural communities need. They need, are entitled to, and should demand everything that goes to make a class A hospital, except perhaps a greater number of beds than they require. They also need the assistance of the United States Public Health Service brought to their very door, through the medium of the State Board of Health, the State University Medical Laboratories and the County Health Unit with its county health officer. Whenever a rural county or community of 15,000 to 20,000 people makes such provision it will not only *solve* its problem of *cost* but also the problem of *quality* of service.

What is needed in rural America is more sanitation and prevention; more diagnosis and intelligent care and treatment; less tinkering, incompetent and mercenary surgery; less confidence-game doctoring; less flim-flam, hocus-pocus adjustment; less meddlesome midwifery in insanitary quarters and more scientific and skillful obstetrics in hygienic surroundings.

If rural people own and manage hospitals for themselves, and make use of them for childbirth, for illness that should have hospital care, and for such surgery as properly may be done, and not chiefly for appendicitis, they should be able, through their board of directors and superintendent, to take care of hospital costs to their satisfaction. The fees of doctors are not likely to be exorbitant; if they are, the hospital authorities are in position to manifest displeasure, and reputable doctors do not invite frowns for either their service or charges.

TRAINING FOR RURAL SOCIAL AND HEALTH WORK

WALTER BURR
In Charge of Public Welfare Training, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri

Social Science and Social Art are meeting; urban society and rural society have discovered each other. Therefore much in social theory and social technique that has proven true and workable in one area, must as a matter of course be found applicable in the other area.

If we are agreed then that professional social work is to be an application of the principles and theories of social science to the solution of the problems of social groups and individuals; that there is some distinction to be made between rural society and urban society; but that in many ways the two are similar and that the similarity factor is increasing; then perhaps there can be a fairly general agreement as to the subject matter and the method of training social workers (and in the writer's estimation this term includes health workers) for the rural field.

As to subject matter: Fundamental knowledge in the social sciences, such as can be secured only in academic circles, seems to be absolutely essential. In a correct sequence of course, this would follow some basic work in Biology, Geology, Chemistry and other so-called exact sciences, at

the points where they become factors in determining social status. The human with whom the worker deals is a physiological set-up of organisms. He is also a chemical laboratory. Since condition of health has so great a bearing upon social welfare, and in turn depends so largely on physical condition, it is difficult to see how a case worker can get meaningful data or how a supervisor can make practical applications of it, without some simple knowledge of basic factors in the complete problem presented by the individual or family case. I am not here decrying the use of the medical specialist, or intimating that the worker should be at all able to make his diagnosis for him; but I am assuming the necessity of enough knowledge of the physical animal with which we are dealing, to make it possible to collect meaningful data. Whatever might be held concerning the need of some training in the physical sciences, there can scarcely be argument as to the need of the background in Sociology, Social Pathology, The Family, Child Welfare, Psychology, Abnormal Psychology,—and other such pure and applied phases of subject matter in the social field. The greatest contribution of urban workers to the general field is that of case method of study. This has a very large and central place in any adequate training course for Rural Social and Health Workers. I am very strongly of the opinion that regardless of the specialized field which a student may intend to enter, whether as a case worker, or an administrator, or a group leader, or a public health nurse—the student should be well trained in this technique.

Due to the peculiarity of the historic background and of the farming occupation, in rural life are found certain phases which differentiate it definitely from urban life. This fact has a bearing upon the way in which courses in Family Welfare, The History of Social Work, Community Organization, Public Welfare Administration, are built. Due to the importance of the historic background as conditioning the present behavior of rural people, the worker in the rural social and health field should not only know the historical facts involved, but should have a sympathetic understanding of these facts. Usually he should be therefore of rural origin himself. While principles of community organization are the same whether in urban or rural communities, yet the difference in historic continuity and in population numbers and in diversity of economic and social interests, makes the application of these principles vastly different in the two population areas. Therefore our training in community organization must proceed along a different angle for rural workers than for urban workers. The rural community still has the family as a unit of solidarity in the entire population group, to the extent that does not exist in the urban community. The farm family also lives and works at the place of business, therefore there is a closer relationship between the family and the business. All group life is conditioned by this fact in the country, and in turn in the town center. One might conceivably be well trained in family welfare work for the urban family, and dismally fail in family welfare work for the rural family. In the rural area public welfare administration is more involved in county government and town-

ship government than can possibly be the case in the urban area. Also the governmental situation and practices among people who have intimate personal acquaintanceship with each other are quite different from those which prevail in the condition of urban anonimity. In public welfare administration, even on a basis of voluntary organization, these facts are of dominating significance.

In an area where one occupation predominates, and all economic and social life tends to be in terms of that occupation, a social worker must have some knowledge of the trends and the chief factors in that occupation. The rural community is a one-occupation community. Town and country alike depend upon and think in terms of that occupation. It is the farming occupation. Therefore one who proposes to do social or health work in the rural community must have enough knowledge of agricultural relationships to work intelligently in a social set-up which is dominated by the occupation of agriculture.

In the college of arts and sciences in a state university we have already at hand the courses in those physical sciences which form a background for social science, and also in the social sciences which offer principles and theories and technique for general application. Most fortunately we have in many instances as another unit in the state university, the land grant college of agriculture. Agricultural education is primarily a technical or applied education. In recent years those in administrative authority have recognized that social life among rural people is an inherent part of agricultural life, and that therefore Rural Sociology and allied subjects are proper parts of a discipline in Agriculture. Agriculture has come to mean to them the "culture of the people," as well as the "culture of the fields." The advanced training in social work is training for the successful operating of a specialized technique; the agricultural college is the agricultural technical school of the University. It has had more than ten years of experience in training county agents, home economics agents, specialists, teachers of vocational agriculture, and boys' and girls' club workers. The entire atmosphere is one of understanding and sympathy in the training of rural leadership. This is its job. It has the subject matter of agricultural economics and home economics well developed and available to students in training for rural public health and welfare work. Therefore there seems to be ample justification for the claim that a curriculum for training rural social and health workers properly belongs in the Land Grant College of Agriculture associated with the State University.

FARM ORGANIZATIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY-WIDE PROJECTS

Mrs. Ruth Buxton Sayre
Ackworth, Warren County, Iowa

It has been said that, "The most important distinction between farming and the other industries lies in the fact that it provides not merely a means of livelihood but a mode of living." The welfare of the farm home and the business of the farm are indissolubly bound together. Farm women are real partners in their husband's business. The farm bureau has recognized this partnership by making the women not merely an auxiliary, but an actual working part of the organization. Just as farm women are giving their help and support to make their own farm life prosperous and happy, so organized farm women are giving their help through the farm bureau to reach this goal in every American farm home.

Farm women as well as men, are largely individualists. In order to form an organization or carry out a project we must reach 200,000 Iowa farm homemakers as separate individuals. This is accomplished through the regularly elected school district coöperator, a woman who acts as chairman of her school district and whose duty it is to try to interest all of the women of the twelve farm families in her district in home project work. The nine school district coöperators together with the township chairman and the publicity chairman resolve themselves into a township committee to carry out a year-round program for home and community welfare. There is no question but that this committee is responsible for the success of any project. No matter how well planned the county program of the extension project the responsibility for its ultimate fulfillment rests upon these women.

All township chairmen together with the county chairman, in turn form the county committee which acts as a project committee in making well arranged plans for carrying out the project. It is also a committee organization set up to give strength to the farm bureau in all of its activities.

In 1922 a state committee of farm women was formed with twelve members, one representing each congressional district and a state chairman. A unified state plan adopted at that time has grown in strength and usefulness as it has been changed to meet the need of a growing organization.

When we consider that every county in Iowa is organized, that out of 1,612 townships in the state there are 1,409 active chairmen and in the

14,400 school districts there are 11,272 active women school district coöperators, we may safely assume that this plan of organization is not only sound in principle but in actual practice.

It seems impossible but it is true that in the last year fourteen specialists in the extension department reached over 200,000 farm women through some phase of home project work. As a matter of fact it was only made possible through the services of thousands of farm women acting as volunteer local leaders. Specifically the term local leader as applied to home project work refers to the women selected to take part in the training schools conducted by the extension specialist from Ames. These leaders must be carefully selected. Before the project begins the women of the township meet and nominate by ballot their township committee—namely, the township chairman, the publicity chairman and the school district coöperators. These names are voted on at a regular township meeting of men and women. The township and publicity chairmen automatically become local leaders, the rest of the prescribed number of leaders being chosen by the township committee from the school district coöperators. This method of selection is satisfactory for two reasons: First, it places the responsibility for the support of the project upon those who receive its benefits. Second, the mere form of voting by ballot adds dignity to the office and implies the support of the voters to the one elected.

Within the requested number of leaders carefully chosen in each township the successes of the project are practically assured. Five training-school centers are arranged in the county, leaders attending the school nearest them. The training school as conducted by the specialist from the extension department is based upon the principle of "science through practice." The leader must actually use the methods being taught whenever possible. Following the training school each leader prepares her material and presents it to her neighbors in a group meeting called a follow-up meeting. When one hundred leaders hold such meetings in their own neighborhoods every community in the county is reached. Thus the project becomes available to every farm woman who desires it.

The effect of home project work on farm bureau organization had been twofold. We used to talk about the morale of the army—now we talk about the morale of the farm. There is no doubt that the success of the women's part of the program has been an effective factor in keeping up the morale of the whole organization. Just as the hope and faith of farm women has been the inspiration of their own homes, just so has it been a source of strength to the whole farm organization.

In the second place home project work has successfully shown what can be accomplished through organization. It has demonstrated by reports that only through thorough organization can we expect an adequate return of time and money expended. It has accomplished the organization of a group of people that we are commonly told are the hardest on earth to organize.

YEARBOOKS AS FACTORS IN THE SUCCESS OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

GEORGE W. WESTCOTT

We generally think of yearbooks as being published annually, bringing out the events and progress made during the past year with reference to the organization or subject to which it applies. Yearbooks are generally compiled, published and circulated at the end of the year but I believe that the yearbook for the local community organization can accomplish more service by being published at the beginning of the year and including not only a story of the progress of the past year but plans of work for the coming year.

Yearbooks may be very simply made by the use of the typewriter or mimeograph or they may be the more elaborate printed and illustrated type, depending upon the finances and leadership at the disposal of the local organization. For the average rural local organization, I believe that the more simple inexpensive booklet accomplishes the purpose adequately and I shall have this type of booklet in mind for the remainder of this discussion.

The part of the book dealing with the accomplishments and progress of the past year should occupy a definite and prominent part of the book but it should be second in importance to the major part dealing with plans of work for the coming year. It should be brief and systematically arranged.

The part of the yearbook dealing with the future should contain a list of all members (if the organization is on a membership basis). It should contain a list of the officers, directors, coöperators and committees. It should contain a list of all committee meetings planned for the coming year, giving the time, place, kind of meeting, main features of the program, announce refreshments if any, and name a committee in charge of each meeting. And finally it should set forth a definite program of work for the betterment of the community, listing the projects each having a definite goal and a local leader in charge.

In making up a yearbook, small clever-sketched cartoons or illustrations scattered throughout, help to add interest and distinction. I have found that a string fastened to the booklet with the suggestion printed on the back, "Hang me in a handy place for ready reference," helps a lot to keep the book in use during the year. This booklet is circularized to everyone in the community.

The yearbook is a value to its community because it informs everybody that there is a complete organization, holding social meetings and doing a definite piece of community work for community development.

Everybody is informed whether they take part or not and moral strength is added to the organization by virtue of the fact that even though people are not active they know and give credit to the organization whereas otherwise they might do harm to their community organization through lack of information.

Organization is clarified. Everybody knows his job and knows which neighbors are officers, who is responsible for each meeting and project.

The booklet idea stimulates an effort to make plans ahead with definite goals which of course lead to more progress and accomplishments for the community. It is a plan to follow. In other words, "Plan your work; then work your plan."

It has a reference value throughout the year. Any member can refer to it for information on the meeting next week; or find out who is on the education committee or who is leader of the soils saving campaign project and so on.

The yearbooks from one year to the next will show definite evidence of progress of the community.

In making a yearbook, it is of course necessary first to select the officers for the following year who in turn appoint their coöperators and committees which should include a scorecard committee and a program committee. At this same meeting a discussion should be held on the subject, "How to make our community the best community in the world," and let the members vote on the projects which they would like to have the local organization sponsor for the coming year.

The scoreboard committee then proceeds to score the community and thus its weak points are discovered. It is then ready to meet with the program committee which has previously conducted the ballot and discussion at the meeting. With their information these committees outline a program for the community setting forth definite goals. The president then selects and appoints leaders for the projects in the program.

With their organization plans completed for the coming year, they now have all the information necessary for the yearbook. In the case of local Farm Bureau organizations, the county agent looks after the publication of the yearbook which is generally put out through the Farm Bureau office. He should meet with the scorecard committee, the program committee and the officers jointly and get the information at this time.

Where the agent has several booklets to publish, the work can be simplified by printing blanks to take to these joint committee meetings. When filled out completely, they contain the information necessary for the booklet.

It is difficult to estimate the value of a planned yearbook but I am convinced that making plans is 50% of the battle and I know that communities with yearbooks accomplish three or four times more than those who stumble around in the dark without plans or goals and with an uninformed membership.

SERVICES OF HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

JULIA NEWTON
Minnesota

Farmers' organizations that live must be based on the principle that the farm interests and the home interests are closely interwoven. The success of the farm business is vitally affected by the character of the home and

vice versa. A broad program of agricultural development includes phases on home problems and activities for women and girls just as definitely as it is planned to contribute aid to farm problems and to work with men and boys.

For the carrying out of a balanced program, a trained leader for the home phases is as fundamental a need as one for the farm phases. A county home demonstration agent, who has had practical experience, as well as scientific training in homemaking, not only contributes to the betterment of home life conditions, but is a positive factor in getting more people to work together for better agriculture.

Five outstanding results of a home demonstration agent's services will be considered.

If the home is a fundamental factor in the success of a farm, then improved practices in homemaking contribute to a successful farm program. The number of homes adopting improved practices through the home demonstration agent's help is a gauge indicating a constantly rising standard of living. Each year the home demonstration agents report increasing numbers of well-nourished families, better-managed homes, more understandingly trained children and more families enjoying wholesome types of self-developed recreation. These are only the outward and visible evidence of an internal development of individuals, of homes and of communities. This means better agriculture.

The broader vision that is gained through working intimately with a home demonstration agent is noticeable in two ways. First, a vision of homemaking in its biggest and best aspects:

"There is a radiance where women move about small household tasks,
If they but see beyond the polished surface of old woods,
The dazzling glory of a living tree,
If they but see beyond the white-heaped flour,
Beyond the red-glassed jellies on the sill
Wide joyous wheatfields laughing in the sun
God's face above an orchard on the hill."

Second, is the vision of the strategic importance of the farm home. By studying the home and its part in agricultural development, Dean Vivian's words enter the thinking hearts of the farm women. "The most important spot in the whole world is the American farm home."

The development of leadership is one of the greatest services of a home demonstration agent. The best-known phase is doubtless the local leader work in home projects. Through handling their own groups, self-confidence, poise and a spirit of service are developed. One who has been a leader not only has a deeper understanding of her business and profession of homemaking, but has gained a keener insight into the need and the ways of working with her neighbors. Thus leadership for the organization is trained. The fine development of county and of township chairmen through assisting a home demonstration agent in putting across the home side of the county program is a marked contribution of the work. A county chairman speaks thus: "Work with a home demonstration agent develops the farm woman's latent abilities and enables her to be a leader, which is an education in itself, to preside at meetings and to work in various ways for

the good of the home and the community, tasks, which before this work was started, she would have thought altogether impossible for her to perform.'' The spirit of leadership is voiced in the following:

''Let me serve,
Teach me to do the best I can
To make the world a better place
And happier for my fellowman.
If gift of mine can cheer his soul
And lighten him upon his way,
I would not keep that talent hid
I would make use of it today,
Let me in humbleness of heart
Rejoice to do my bit of service here.''

Closely following the point of leadership is the equally important development of good ''fellowship.'' Ten thousands of community groups of 12, 15 or 18 in membership, who loyally support their leaders, month after month, are one of the best proofs that farm people can coöperate in a well-planned and carried-out project. Intelligent, constructive thinking and working together under the guiding plan of the home demonstration agent accounts for this. One of the greatest lessons farm people have had to learn is that of working together for the common good of agriculture.

''Surely some workman has builded the pillar as well as the Spire;
The cross that the painter has gilded was fashioned in somebody's fire.
Surely men dug in the ditches preparing a place for the wall—
And someone has made with her stitches the flag that shall fly over all.
Someone has blended the plaster and someone has carried the stone;
Neither the man nor the master ever has builded alone.
Making a roof from the weather, building a house for the King,
Only by working together, men have accomplished a thing.
All have a share in the beauty; all have a part in the plan;
What does it matter what duty falls to the lot of a man?
Each has a hand in the building; no one has builded alone—
Whether a cross he was guilding, whether he carried the stone.''

Last, but not least of the few points, there is time to mention, is the development of community consciousness. Drawn together by common interest in studying the home problems, farm women are realizing that only as their community develops can they expect to have the highest types of homes. So definite coöperation in community development results. Let some of the farm women speak to you on these points.

''Learning to coöperate with others is an important lesson for anyone to learn, and to my mind, this is the one thing women learn from working with their home demonstration agent. They find a point of contact with other women and this means their interests become community wide.''

''Work with a home demonstration agent has broadened our minds, strengthened our interests in our neighbors and thus drifting away from ourselves, we find we are much more able to do our little part in making this life better.''

''A community is a reflection of its homes and home demonstration work deals primarily with the home and its needs. The work makes the farm woman's viewpoint broader, develops leadership and promotes sociability not only in the home but in the community. In short it involves play, culture and well being.''

JOBS WHICH CONFRONT A STATE FARM ORGANIZATION

G. E. METZGER
Secretary, Illinois Agricultural Association

The jobs which confront a state farm organization are so numerous and so varied that it is impossible to treat them fully in a paper of this length.

As most state farm membership organizations are set up at the present time, it becomes imperative that a membership must be maintained if the organization is to live and function. Therefore, I would say that the first sizeable job is the acquiring and maintenance of the membership.

In maintaining a membership, it is first of all necessary for the state organization to determine something of the nature of the farm population within its jurisdiction. Ordinarily, I believe, that farmers may be grouped into three general classes. The first class, which I should roughly say, comprising about 30 to 35 per cent of the farmers of any of these mid-west states, are a group of people who read, think and reason. These people, generally speaking, are the group who now comprise the membership of the leading farm organizations. The second class, I would characterize as a group of people who, for the most part, make what progress they are making in agricultural lines by copying it from the first group. They ordinarily think less, read less and reason less than the first group. Yet, they are potential prospects for memberships in these organizations. My opinion is that they comprise about one-third of the farmers of the state. In this group fall a good many shrewd men who reside on farms but whose chief source of income is derived from selling supplies of one kind or another to farmers. These men, usually, are against organization and group action on the part of farmers and have some adverse influence. The last, the third class, I characterize as a group who read, think and reason very little. They do not make much progress in agricultural lines. As a rule, they live from hand to mouth, and take little or no responsibility for the advancement of the agricultural industry. I doubt if this group of farmers will ever be very much of an asset to a membership organization. They may participate in commodity marketing organizations and assist in supplying a volume of product; but in so far as the formation of policy is concerned, I doubt if they will lend much to the progress of coöperative marketing.

Probably the greatest problem which confronts a farm organization in the maintenance of membership is indifference. The second and third class of farmers that I have referred to, and I am inclined to think a goodly majority of the first class, do not fully appreciate the value of organization. Their individualistic habits and living and the failure to recognize their relations with other groups of people, contribute largely to this attitude of mind, which I characterize as indifference.

Secondly, many of them have little or no confidence in their fellow farmers. Jealousy and prejudice, especially among the two latter groups, appear quite common. We find a general tendency to refuse to follow the

man who gets ahead. They seem to have an inborn prejudice against a salaried man. Thus, one of the big problems confronting a farm organization is to maintain trained men, which agricultural organizations seriously need. Men with business training prefer to go into industrial or commercial lines rather than take the unwarranted criticism and slurs so commonly thrown at them by unappreciative farmers.

Another fact which must be considered in the maintaining of membership is that so many of our farm families are trying to save continuously, but they never accumulate any money reserve. Therefore, it is hard to make those people understand why they should pledge themselves for a membership fee, which they feel unable to pay. Further, it is hard to deliver to them a service, because most of the projects offered by our farm organizations involve the investment of money, which most of the people do not have.

The next big item adding to the difficulties of this job of maintaining membership is a general ignorance on the part of many farm families. Recently, I asked one of my field men who was working in one of the best agricultural counties in Illinois, to select and travel down some highway and call on ten non-Farm Bureau members just as he came to them, and make inquiry concerning a certain publication of a daily paper that had been issued in that county and sent to every farmer. This paper carried an eight-page insert on agricultural matters, featuring, of course, the Farm Bureau movement. It was one of the best pieces of publicity of its kind that I have ever seen. The first question I asked my solicitor to ask these men was whether or not they received the paper. All of them had received it. The feature article in this paper had to do with the new Federal Marketing Act and the appointment of the Federal Farm Board. The second question my solicitor asked these men was what they thought of the new marketing act. The sad news is that eight out of the ten men did not know that such an act had been passed by the Congress. After some explanation on the part of my solicitor, he asked the third question, "What do you think of the new Federal Farm Board and the possibilities of some relief to the farmer?" Six out of the ten of them stated that they had no confidence in the Farm Board whatever, that the Farm Board would eat up all of the five hundred million dollars appropriation in salaries and that no relief would come through to the farmer. What are we to expect of a group of people in a farm organization with such meager information as to current events, which have to do with their own interests.

My impression is that the only way these people will ever be reached is through word-of-mouth publicity. Therefore, I am of the opinion that if membership organizations are to grow in size and prestige, we must begin at once to prepare the nonmember for membership. I believe this preparation will largely take place through the men and women who are already affiliated with membership organizations. Our members must accept the responsibility of cultivating the nonmember. My observation in marketing activities is that the farmers' business is largely held through friendliness. I believe his support to a membership organization can be gained, to a large extent, in the same way. The member must sympathize with the nonmember. He must recognize his problems intimately, and above all,

he must be able to show Mr. Nonmember that the organization has a program on which delivery can be made. Any other method, as I see it, of cultivating and preparing the nonmember is going to be a costly proposition.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE IOWA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

DAISY V. WILLIAMS
Secretary-Treasurer, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

My discussion of this subject will follow quite closely the objects sought by those who felt there was need of such an organization as the Farm Bureau, and set about to build it to meet the requirements of a progressive agricultural industry. These objects are quite clearly set forth in Article 4 of our Articles of Incorporation, the recital of which will give you a better understanding of the aims sought in incorporating the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Article 4 gives a very clear picture of what the Federation seeks to do for community and agricultural betterment. It reads as follows:

"The object of this Federation shall be to effectively organize, advance, and improve, in every way possible, the agricultural interests of the great commonwealth of Iowa, economically, educationally and socially, through the united efforts of the County Farm Bureaus of the state, and to this end it may buy and sell, directly or indirectly, by agent or otherwise, coöperatively or otherwise, produce, crops, livestock, and any other article of personal property raised, kept or used on the farm, or any service or benefit used by farmers or its members; act as a marketing agency upon a coöperative basis; lease, hold, purchase, buy or sell such real estate or personal property, including corporate stock, as may be necessary or reasonable incident to the conduct of its business; may take such property or any of it by gift, devise or purchase; lease, buy or sell or take by devise buildings or other property real or personal; and employ the necessary servants, stenographers, and other assistants for the conduct, operation, comfort and keeping of said corporate business."

That you may get a still closer view of our organization, Article 5 of our constitution provides for a definite relationship with governmental agricultural agencies, which is as follows:

"County Farm Bureaus in the State of Iowa coöperating with the Iowa State College of Agriculture shall be eligible for membership."

The reason the State Department of Agriculture was not mentioned was because the department had not been organized at the time we started. The Farm Bureau, after it was organized, sponsored the bill in the state legislature which created the State Department of Agriculture, and we are now working in the closest coöperation with it.

Referring back to Article 4, you will observe that it is broad enough and gives sufficient latitude to the Federation that it may engage in

practically any activity that may be of service or of real definite interest to the membership and the agricultural industry.

Perhaps no better definition of the ideals of the Federation could be given than the one word *SERVICE*. Our effort is constantly, and conscientiously, directed to serve those of the organization along lines for which it was organized.

Were it practical to catalog the activities of the Federation under their various headings, we might deal with them in a more concrete form, but this is hardly practicable from the fact that the objects overlap, one fusing into the other as we put them in active operation. The economic and educational efforts are so closely related that a division is hardly possible, for we find in the consideration and study of our economic problems such a need for a thorough understanding of all that pertains to this important subject that education perhaps should precede active activities in developing the economic side of farm life.

For the benefit of those who do not know the set-up of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and its working relationships and plans, a brief statement of the structure of this organization may be worth while here.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation is an organization representing one hundred County Farm Bureaus in the state, joined into a state-wide organization, with a membership of over 60,000 farm families.

The State of Iowa is composed of 99 counties. Every county in the state has a County Farm Bureau. In one of the large counties, it was found desirable to divide the county into two Farm Bureaus so the farmers could thereby be better served. We, therefore, have 100 County Farm Bureaus as members of the State Federation. Each County Bureau has an Agricultural Agent, and many have in addition a Home Demonstration Agent, and there are a number with a full time or part time club agent. These people are all employed and give all their time to the work of the County Farm Bureaus.

The financial support to carry on the activities in the counties is derived from three sources:

1st. Through Federal funds from the Smith-Lever Act a portion of the salary of the Agents is paid by the government.

2d. Each County Farm Bureau receives an appropriation from its county.

3d. The County Farm Bureau receives an individual membership fee of $5.00, excepting a small portion of which goes to finance the State and National Federation.

The State Federation, therefore, is a federation of the County Farm Bureaus in the State, and it is financed largely from the personal funds of the Farm Bureau members. It receives no appropriations from any source, and being independently financed by its members can interest itself in any desirable activity not in conflict with the law or the articles of incorporation.

The County Farm Bureaus, as well as the State Federation, coöperate closely with the Extension Department of Iowa State College and the State and United States Department of Agriculture.

The governing body of the Federation is composed of 100 directors. A director is selected by each county as a member of the board of directors of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, thus each county has a direct representative in building the program for the State organization. This board of directors meets once each year, selects the officials of the State Federation, provides for an Executive Committee—one man from each Congressional District, which act between meetings of the board;—provides for a women's committee, one from each Congressional District, and adopts a program of work for the following year.

Through this federation of the counties into a State organization the influence and power of the counties is multiplied one hundredfold, and it can thereby represent these counties in the larger aspects and activities affecting the membership. Thus the State organization can act and speak effectively for the County Farm Bureaus and their membership.

The State Federation maintains certain active standing committees who give definite consideration to the duties pertaining to those committees. The more important committees are as follows: Legislative, Marketing, Organization, Taxation, Educational, Transportation, Rural Electrification, Service and Insurance.

Each committee is responsible to the Executive Committee and the officials for results in their field.

GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION

HOW EFFICIENT IS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MY COMMUNITY?

MRS. W. D. MILLER
Grundy Center, Iowa

In taking up the subject of law enforcement in my community, I can speak with a great deal of pride, for we have some very efficient and conscientious officers who are doing their duty. We elected these officers just as any county does, only I think the women have played an important part in the election of good reliable officers for they have gone to the polls and voted.

I feel that I cannot say anything about the inefficiency of our present officers but I can say that we are a very normal community, that we have people who do not coöperate with the officers. Just recently I overheard a conversation in which one lady was telling another about a car running off the grade and tipping over, how the men with the help of some others got the car back on the road and they started on. She said, "They were only drunk enough to feel good." The second lady said, "Why didn't you report them?" The first lady answered by saying, "Oh they were happy, why spoil their fun?" So many times just such people are not reported to the officers and left go driving their car until they run into another car, sometimes ending in the death of innocent people. This is only one instance of people not coöperating with the officers. I could name several others but I want you to know that no matter how efficient officers are, they cannot do it all. We as citizens must coöperate. I also think rewards offered by various organizations and concerns for the arrest and convictions of criminals aid in law enforcement.

In my community we have been carrying quite an extensive health program. We have employed a Red Cross nurse most of the time for nearly ten years and the last two years we have had school nurses in some of the largest schools. Our 4-H Clubs carry a health program all through the year and are always represented in the State Health Contest at the Iowa State Fair. We have had an epidemic recently that required the help of a State Health Officer and the people in the community felt that it was a very satisfactory way to settle a difference of opinion among local physicians.

My community, along with the neighboring counties, feels that real estate is carrying more than its share of school tax. I think the farmer should have his fair share of prosperity and the farmer's children should have their share of education, but I do not believe in real estate carrying the heavy end of the taxes.

When speaking of my community, I really mean my county. Grundy County as you know is a small county, having only fourteen townships. In these fourteen townships we have five consolidated schools and two high schools.

A goodly number of the rural schools are standardized and it evidently is contagious because every year we have an added number of standardized schools.

We have good school libraries and public libraries who coöperate with the rural schools by loaning the teacher of any rural school not to exceed ten books at one time to be used in her school. The 4-H clubs are doing a fine piece of educational work in my community.

CHANGES IN STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FRED W. NELSON
Nevada, Iowa

In opening a discussion on legislation affecting local government it is well to keep in mind that laws are (or at least should be) enacted in support of the ideal of government of the people, for the people and by the people. Laws are the basis on which depends the economic, educational, social and moral welfare of the individual, the commonwealth and the nation.

It is evident that with our rapidly changing economic and social conditions, due to a likewise rapid development of inventive genius and the progress of civilization, new laws must be written and old ones changed to conform with the need of the times. To meet these new conditions, to harmonize the ever-diverging interests of the masses and at the same time preserve that democratic principle of government of, for and by the people is often a real problem in legislation.

The outstanding change in legislation during the last session of the Iowa General Assembly, which directly affects local government and particularly rural communities, is perhaps that having to do with the construction and maintenance of township or rural roads. The township is the smallest unit of our government and up to the present time three trustees, elected by the voters of the township have had charge of the construction and maintenance of roads and have made the tax levies therefore in their respective townships. With 1,610 townships in the state it meant that the supervision of some 84,000 miles of rural roads was in the hands of 4,800 men living in and interested in their communities.

The new law puts the supervision of all rural roads, except those designated as primary roads, in the hands of the county supervisors, making 99 units of authority in place of 1,610. This is in keeping with the present apparent tendency of the time, toward centralization of authority in government.

The improvement of rural roads is indeed a large and important problem, involving the expenditure of a great sum of public revenue. During the year 1928 a total of $8,888,944.53 was expended by trustees on rural roads. This is exclusive of $12,963,939.81 spent by county supervisors on county roads, bridges and culverts and $30,308,543.68 expended by the Iowa Highway Commission on the primary road system which is in fact the rural roads but not built primarily for local purposes.

The urge for more rapid development and improvement of rural roads has of course been stimulated by the general adoption of motor vehicles for both business and pleasure. That good roads are an asset to rural communities, no one can deny, because the economic, educational and social welfare of rural residents is very closely linked with and dependent upon the cost and convenience of transportation. The question, therefore, is not whether or not we want good roads for on that point I am sure we are all agreed. The question is, will we get more efficiency in construction and maintenance under the county unit system than under the old township system. In other words, will we get more good roads for the money available than we have in the past?

On this matter opinion is quite divided and only by a fair trial of the new law and a comparison of results can the answer be found. Personally we are convinced that it costs money to build good roads and as the funds for that purpose must, under the new law as in the past, be raised principally by direct local taxation, our progress must be measured by the ability of the community to pay. The question may, therefore, well be raised as to the justice of vesting in a county unit, the authority to make mandatory and optional levies as provided by the new law, for a purpose so wholly local as township road construction. It is at least another step in the process of centralization of governmental authority.

The law on eradication of bovine tuberculosis was changed from a county area or county optional plan to a state compulsory act. It is unnecessary under the amended statute to secure the signatures of the majority of cattle owners in the county. The work of testing will be continued under supervision of the State Department of Agriculture until all dairy and breeding cattle in the state are accredited.

An Act of the General Assembly providing for a survey of the public school system is of interest although the effect, if any, is still unknown. This survey, in charge of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall be a research study of the administration, the supervision and the instruction of the public school system, the cost thereof, and the ability of the district to meet such cost. In addition, data as to the type and number of each type of handicapped children of school age in the state will be secured.

Of proposed legislation the most important and that of greatest interest to the greatest number of people, is of course tax revision. To what extent it will affect local government is problematical but any change in our taxing system will undoubtedly apply, directly or indirectly, to local interests. It is unnecessary, I am sure, for me to elaborate on the need

of tax revision or the inequalities of our present system for of this we are all aware. Neither would it be possible in the short time at my disposal to discuss at length the various proposals for tax relief, including suggestions for new sources of revenue and different methods of assessment and fixing valuation for taxing purposes.

Upon the legislative tax committee provided for by the forty-third General Assembly, is imposed the duty of investigating and studying the taxing systems of other states and to make recommendations to either a special tax revision session or the next regular session of the legislature. This is not Iowa's first attempt at tax revision through a legislative tax committee but it is to be hoped that the efforts of the present committee coöperating with the newly-created tax commission, will result in at least a reasonable and constructive basis, on which the next General Assembly can build a taxing system fair and equitable to agriculture, to industry, to business, to the home owner and to the wage earner.

WHAT SERVICES DO FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS FURNISH TO FARM PEOPLE?

MISS DAISY V. WILLIAMS
Secretary-Treasurer, The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

Taxes are a touchy subject with farmers. It is not alone how much he pays in taxes that riles the farmer, but more especially it is a matter of what his tax money buys for him. Here in Iowa, we are working diligently on that subject right now and I need not tell you that as a result of our research and study we hope to change the picture of what the farmer receives for his tax expenditure within the next few years.

There is one department of the government, however, from which the farmer receives good measure for every dollar of tax money invested, and that is from the Department of Agriculture. It is likewise a fact that almost all farmers would receive even more from this department if they fully understood the services which it makes available to them in the many branches of activity in which the United States Department of Agriculture is now engaged.

I would venture to say that, as well-informed as are most of us, few of us know all the things that the Department of Agriculture is now doing for the farmer and the farm industry.

Just to give you an idea of how extensive its service is, the department includes the following main branches: The Office of Information, the Library, Office of Experiment Stations, Extension Service, Weather Bureau, Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Dairy Industry, Bureau of Plant Industry, Forest Service, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Bureau of Entomology, Bureau of Biological Survey, Bureau of Public Roads, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Bureau of Home Economics, Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, Grain Futures Administration, and the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration.

Of these various bureaus and branches, the one which touches the farmer quite closely is that concerned with crop and market reports and periodicals. There are literally hundreds of these bulletins which are published regularly touching every phase of agriculture and live stock, and available to all farmers on request. These include the periodical crop and livestock estimates, the market reports which go into detail on prices, consumption, production and surpluses, dairy and poultry products reports, fruit and vegetable bulletins, feed reports, grain reports, hay reports, seed reviews, and a complete array of reports and bulletins covering livestock, meats and wool which are issued at regular intervals. In addition to these, the department publishes the daily radio market news and a group of periodicals, including one for coöperative marketing groups, another on agricultural economics, another dealing with the current agricultural situation, another touching upon crops and markets, another covering rural life activities, another dealing with foreign crops and markets, and also one giving current information on marketing activities by states and regions.

In addition to these numerous periodicals, of course, the department issues bulletins on almost every type of agricultural product and problem, and these bulletins are available to any farmer or taxpayer in the United States. They are particularly valuable in that they contain the latest results of research and experiment work and are written from an absolutely unbiased standpoint, in plain English which anyone can understand and use.

From the Department of Commerce valuable information is secured on crop conditions and markets in foreign lands. This is a very helpful service to all our people and is of distinct advantage to the producing farmer, while from the figures available through this department very accurate information is available which is used to good advantage by the Tariff Commission.

The services from the War Department that are of advantage to us in the Mid-West are confined largely to flood control and to river development for transportation purposes. This department should be of real service to the agriculture of the Mid-West where inland waterway transportation is one of our big projects and is demanding the attention of the public.

The Department of the Interior has to do with reclamation, reforestation and forest range problems. It can affect the agricultural industry most helpfully or it can invoke policies that would be disastrous for agriculture. If in the wisdom of this department and the Congress a policy should be adopted and adhered to that no new land should be brought into cultivation until consumption overtakes production, it would be very helpful to agriculture. On the other hand, if new projects are opened up for cultivation this policy would militate adversely to the farmer. At the present time there is under way the possibility of a large reclamation project in the State of Washington which, if carried through, would perhaps bring more tillable land into production than all the other reclamation projects combined. We should be on the alert that no such policy be adopted.

We are all quite conversant with the services from the Post Office Department. A very helpful service is afforded the farmer through the parcel

post service administered by the Post Office Department. There is however, and has been for some time, a growing tendency to place charges on parcels post sufficient to make up deficits in other postal departments which is prejudicial to that department and which makes the parcel post service less desirable for the use of the farmer.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has rendered and is rendering valuable service to the people of the nation in their regulation of transportation charges and railroad valuations. While many of the shipping public, with some justice, feel this commission might profitably speed up their work they have been of most valuable help to the users of transportation and have been instrumental in keeping railroad valuations to some fair degree of the actual value, which is to our advantage for rate making purposes.

The Federal Trade Commission stands as a barrier against unfair trade practices. This commission may be used to still greater advantage to agriculture in seeing that practices prejudicial to the farmer are not practiced to his detriment in the marketing work that is being developed through the Federal Farm Board. A former president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, C. W. Hunt, who is held in the highest respect by the members of our organization, is one of the commissioners of the Federal Trade Commission.

The Shipping Board has rendered a very valuable service to the farmer and, while we have small occasion to contact with this board, it is true that in many cases where the markets were congested with grain the Shipping Board has sent their vessels to the ports at considerable expense to the government, and have taken from storage elevators sufficient grain to relieve the congestion there. It is a proven fact that this service has protected further decline in grain prices by relieving the situation.

The Federal Farm Loan Board was set up to serve agriculture, to provide funds at a nominal figure by which means the farmer might finance his farming operations. It has been of distinct service to agriculture. There is a belief, however, that this function of the government could and should be much more serviceable than it has been in the past, and there is a possibility that through the agency and recommendations of the Federal Farm Board it may be of greater service.

The Tariff Commission may be of distinct service to us or their findings may be prejudicial to agriculture. In a large way through this commission, our tariff schedules are determined and if their findings are fair and right they can serve in a very helpful way.

The Federal Farm Board, the newly organized agency to serve agriculture, particularly along marketing lines, is too new for us to outline the services it may render. This board, however, has been given broad powers and it is starting out with a definite purpose of helping the farmer to organize his commodities and assist him in better marketing practices. We hope the Federal Marketing Act and the Federal Farm Board may prove of most valuable assistance and service to the agricultural industry.

WHAT ARE THE EQUALIZATION PROBLEMS IN STATE LEGISLATION AND WHAT CAN BE DONE IN REGARD TO THEM?

CHARLES L. STEWART
The University of Illinois

Outline of problems deserving attention by members of state agricultural advisory commissions and by others taking long-time view of the relation of states to the agricultural situations within their borders.

I. Problems arising from or accentuated by improved highways and motor transportation—
   1. The problem of getting for farms and farm homes service from custom haulers operating trucks and busses that will afford economically sound transportation and fit rural needs progressively better.
   2. The problem of distributing the costs of construction and maintenance of roads and bridges to users of the facilities.
   3. The problem of merging local improvement districts so as to reduce costs per unit of area.

II. Problems in shifting to state support such burdens on individuals and on local units as—
   1. The public certification of land titles so as to require abstracts of title to evidence developments from a fairly recent basic date such as January 1, 1900.
   2. The state support of grade and high schools in substitution for local support up to 49 per cent in cases of greatest need.

III. Problems in bringing about and keeping a basis representation of land areas in one chamber of the state legislature as a supplement to a basic representation of population in the other chamber.

IV. Problems in adjusting tax burdens so as to conform to the canons of—
   1. Conservation of natural resources.
   2. Ability of persons to pay taxes.

V. Problems in obtaining recognition for equalization needs and methods.
   1. Studies by economic interest groups.
   2. Studies by state agricultural advisory commissions.

LANDSCAPING AND RECREATION

TIMELY PROGRAMS DEVELOPED BY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Charles Arthur
Spirit Lake, Iowa

Reviewing the early history of our Dickinson County Farm Bureau we find that the first time women took part was the organization of community clubs and the planning of satisfactory programs. At this time very few farm women had ever conducted a business meeting. These clubs have done a lot of good work and many women have found farm life bright and happier through them. Then as the time went on we organized our townships and held regular township meetings. The township organization set up properly is a very important part. Again there was a need for programs, but no particular plan was used. Sometimes there was a good program and other times not. For the last two years we have had program books for each township in the county for their regular township meetings.

Last winter when W. H. Stacy, of the Extension Service, was in our county, it was 20 below zero or colder and a terrible day. We thought it was quite an effort to drive three miles. By one o'clock two to six people were present from every township in the county but one. Our programs were outlined and a very successful meeting was held. The program books were mimeographed at the office for each township. We have tried to stress conducting the township meetings in business-like way.

I would particularly suggest the visiting of other townships. In the building of our township and county activities, we must have this contact with other townships. Just the same as the leaders must have the contact of the extension department, state and national federation to get a broader vision of the work being done over our county.

In our county we have quite a number of our schools consolidated. The superintendent and teachers have been a great help in many of the township meetings, taking active parts and we appreciate their help.

Some particularly good meetings were the Old Settlers' Reunion. There have been several held this year, and they draw large crowds. One of these reunions was held on our place on the exact site of the Thatcher Cabin where the Thatcher family were massacred by the Indians.

Recently I attended a township meeting where a reception was held for the teachers. There are two consolidated schools in this township. It is also a standard township in spite of the fact that about one-third is "in the lakes" and in three towns, besides summer resort and numerous acreages around the lake. After the business meeting was held games

were played, with the superintendent, principal, basket ball coach and county agent as leaders. I have never seen people enjoy themselves more.

Banquets are in order this month. Our own township had a chicken fry and invited the business men and their wives. One township had on their program health sanitation on the farm; this subject was taken up by a local doctor. These are some of the subjects used at township meetings: Debates; business men putting on program; weed eradication; seed corn selection; seed potato selection; how to keep quality cream; discussion of farm relief bill; talk on farm accounts; paper on landscaping; reports of all conventions, short courses, etc., help to keep up interest and lets people know what is being done. A pageant was held this year at our June picnic going back to the days of Indians and Washington down to the present Farm Bureau days. Basket socials seem to be the easiest way for townships to have extra money in their treasury. One township has a splendid pledge, in which all state their belief that the Farm Bureau is a good organization and that it is the duty of all good Farm Bureau members to attend meetings whenever and wherever they can. "I promise that hereafter I will try to be more loyal to my own organization, the Farm Bureau; I will cease to be a knocker and hereafter be a booster."

The success of these meetings will depend on leaders chosen, and their ability to put them over.

One point I want to mention is the good feeling existing between the town and country people. We have had splendid coöperation from them. Many of us belong to as many organizations in town as we do in the country. This spring the commercial club invited their wives to a fish fry. A great many of the farmers belong to the commercial club. This was held at the tourist park on East Okoboji. Several hundred attended and I never before saw so many fish fried. Long racks were used over an open fire with pan after pan of fish frying. It is needless to say we had a wonderful time.

The longer I am in Farm Bureau work the more impressed I am with the depth of faith of our leaders. They have a vision of a rural America where every boy and girl, man and woman, shall have the same comforts, the same opportunities and the same return for their labor as in other industries. The things we have accomplished give them faith in the thought that we are working in the right direction and that faith strengthens enthusiasm for further effort.

Our goal is: "A happy and prosperous family on every farm, enjoying an American standard of living; the income from the farm paying the bill." After all, it is the happy farm home we are striving to attain.

CHIMNEYS

Fashion it deep and stalwart
  And reaching towards heaven's dome;
For when you fashion a chimney
  You fashion the heart of a home.
Build it for strength and beauty
  Lest one from its shelter roam
For when you've builded a chimney,
  You've builded the soul of a home.

A PROGRAM OF LANDSCAPING AND RECREATION

J. R. FITZSIMMONS

We are fortunate here in Iowa in that one of the agencies for the protection and guidance of this phase of recreation is correlated with the landscape development of the farmstead and the rural community in general through the landscape extension service.

This service embraces four major phases of work, namely state parks, farmstead development, home grounds improvement and public and semi-public grounds improvement, all focusing attention on a state-wide program of landscape improvement.

The state park work is the result of many years of effort on the part of conservation and park enthusiasts of Iowa through whose efforts the state parks were authorized by the thirty-seventh general assembly in 1917. Such men as Dr. T. H. McBride, Dr. L. H. Pammel, Professor G. B. MacDonald, Mr. Edgar R. Harlan, Dr. Bohumil Schmick and many, many other well-known Iowans were instrumental in bringing about this legislation which virtually established the State Board of Conservation, a body of five members appointed by the Governor.

The duties of this board as defined by the legislative act are as follows: To investigate places in Iowa rich in natural history, forest reserves, archæological specimens, and geological deposits; and the means of promoting forestry and maintaining and preserving animal and bird life and the conservation of the natural resources of the state.

Under the supervision and direction of the Executive Council, the Board has the power to establish, maintain, improve and beautify parks upon the shores of lakes, streams, or other water or at other places within the state, which have become historical or which are of scientific interest or which by reason of their natural scenic beauty or location are adapted to park use.

This Board began its work December 27, 1918, and through the efforts of the successive Boards, Iowa has at the present time 36 state parks having a total area of 7,539.72 acres. It also has jurisdiction over approximately 53,000 acres embracing the meandered lakes. In addition to the meandered lakes, the state through the Board controls the meandered streams, of which there are the following: Des Moines, Lower Raccoon, Cedar, Wapsipinicon, Turkey, Skunk, Big Sioux, Maquoketa and Nishnabonta. These streams embrace an area of 50,000 acres with hundreds of islands.

During the past year the Board has authorized a survey of the scenic, scientific and recreational facilities of Iowa with a view to guiding its selection and the development of state parks. This survey embraces a comprehensive study of the field of active recreational possibilities in the state; the possible future needs in this field; the correlation of efforts for their eventual realization and the means of preserving them for this and future generations.

Already many areas throughout the state have been investigated as possible future sites for state parks. They have been recorded in the printed report of the State Board of Conservation for 1919, and in the report to Governor Hammill by Dr. L. H. Pammel of the Iowa State College at the time he resigned as chairman of the Board. Still further areas are coming to attention through the present survey.

We are also bringing to light the extent of other forms of recreation. An incomplete account of some of these to date is as follows:

PARKS

No.	*Area*	*No. Counties*	*Area in Acres*
65	Amusement Parks	38	1,704.36
355	City Parks	86	5,211.00
16	County Parks	15	665.50
36	State Parks	30	7,539.72
0	National Parks	..	.....
105	Public Squares	56	117.16
93	Tourist Camps	53	523.67
66	Private Parks used as Picnic Areas	39	2,006.75
84	Cemeteries or Inst. Grounds, parklike	50	9,593.50
	Total		27,361.66

RESERVATIONS

No.	*Area*	*No. Counties*	*Area in Acres*
4	National Reservations	3	5,000.00
13	State Reservations	11	5,018.00
1,467	Private Reservation (Unpastured Woodland)	56	30,700.00
	Total		40,718.00

RECREATION

No.	*Area*	*No. Counties*	*Area in Acres*
59	Community Centers	32	.....
56	City Playgrounds	30	640.00
167	Athletic Fields	66	508.00
164	Golf Courses	85	6,617.00
126	Swimming Pools or Beaches	56	1,149.75
73	Boating Places	44	.....
91	Dance Pavillions	55	.....
127	Band Concert Pavillions	51	.....
43	Aviation Fields	39	1,750.00
	Total		10,889.75
	Grand Total		51,607.75

This as I said is only a partial tabulation of the present survey which when completed accurately, plotted and interpreted will aid in developing a comprehensive method of establishing state parks where they are needed to round out the state recreation areas and to preserve and protect examples of typical Iowa landscape rich in scenic, scientific and recreation possibilities.

The Board is also developing a state-wide program of education, at each state park, in subjects of natural history; bird and animal life, plants, geology and archæology. Each week-end competent leaders conduct hikes in these parks over trails pointing out and explaining examples in these fields as they are found and preserved therein.

Field studies are now under way in coöperation with the State Highway Commission, and the engineering department of this college to determine how the highways of Iowa may be correctly planted for beauty, yet not detrimental or injurious to the functioning of the roadway as a channel of traffic.

PROGRAM AND GOALS OF THE DALLAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU LANDSCAPE PROJECT

MRS. D. C. BICE
Adel, Iowa

The love of flowers and all things green and growing is an inheritance handed down from the first man who was put in a garden "to dress it and to keep it." No matter how greatly we love growing things and how greatly we enjoy lovely gardens, unless we have knowledge and experience, we cannot hope to attain them.

It was the desire for more beautiful farm homes and the lack of knowledge, that prompted the Farm Bureau women of Dallas County to take up the study of Landscape Architecture for the Home Grounds.

Probably very few people know that fifty-eight years ago, in 1871, President Welch of Iowa State College at Ames, established one of the first courses in landscape gardening given in an American institution of higher learning. At that time it was a small division in the horticultural curriculum, and today is a professional course in landscape architecture which is ranked among the foremost in the country.

The extension service has been operating through this department since 1910, and demonstration plantings have been made at different farms, institutions and parks over the state.

The first work in Dallas County was in 1923 and consisted of one lecture to a group of high school students and a few farm folks who were becoming interested in landscaping. A few calls were made to farm owners and some planting was done that year. In 1925, there were individual services to several farm homes, and informal meetings at various places.

By this time we were hungry for knowledge and in 1927, we were the first county in Iowa to take up the study of landscape principles by means of a project training school. Professor J. R. Fitzsimmons, who inaugurated this method, proved its efficiency over the old policy of individual plan service, which reached such a limited number of people. Seventy-three men and women enrolled in the training schools and then carried back the lesson material to their neighbors, using their own home

grounds as demonstration areas. Over five hundred people are known to have been reached in this manner.

By this time, the interest was so genuine, we persuaded the Extension Department to offer practically the same course again. Professor Davis conducted the second school and besides presenting the project to the men and women of the Farm Bureau, he held two meetings for the rural school teachers of the county, and three meetings for 4-H Club leaders. In addition, a series of evening training schools were held, both years, open to garden club and women's club members.

Is it any wonder that Dallas County is landscaape minded?

We believe that the results justify the time given to this project. Each person enrolled in the school went out on his farmstead with a tapeline, notebook and pencil and recorded data of all existing conditions. We measured and located the buildings, lots, gardens, drives, walks, fences, trees, and shrubs. From this mass of figures, we drew a plan to scale of our farm grounds, and what hopeless looking plans they were! But with a stroke of his pencil, our specialist moved a barn to a more convenient location, pushed back fences to make better balanced yard, uprooted trees and replanted them to make a frame for the house, and planted shrubs and flowers in the right places. You can imagine our delight. All we had to do was to carry out his suggestions.

One hundred plans were drawn during the two years, and carried out to some extent in every case. Some of the plans have been completed. Thousands of evergreens have been planted in windbreaks, hundreds of shade trees have been set out, thousands of flowering shrubs have been placed in foundation and border plantings. Perennials and annuals have been blooming in the right places. Dozens of lily pools have been built; bird baths, garden seats and rock gardens have been constructed.

Several rural school grounds were planted to trees and shrubs; and a surprising interest was shown among the 4-H girls and their leaders.

Garden clubs in three towns of the county have coöperated with the Farm Bureau and have done some splendid pieces of civic improvement. Dumping grounds have been reclaimed and planted, parks beautified, church and library grounds landscaped.

The goals of this project may be stated in a few words:

1. To make Iowa a more beautiful state in which to live.
2. To influence 75 per cent of the homes in beautification.
3. To interest at least 1,000 people in the county in landscape planning.
4. To have exhibits at our local and state fairs.
5. Every 4-H Club girl to have a vegetable and flower garden.
6. To develop at least one rural school in each township as a demonstration.

This program may seem extensive, but we are having a wonderful time during its development.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES OF RURAL LIFE*

EDWIN V. O'HARA
The National Catholic Welfare Conference

These conferences are concerned with many aspects of country life. They are insistent upon the rights of agriculture to a fairer distribution of the national income. And in this they are joined by the force of religion which is concerned with conserving the spiritual resources of country life.

There are two important reasons why the church should be especially concerned with the interests of the American farmer. These reasons are, first, because the American farmer has a very special need of the church, and second, because the church has a very special need of the American farmer. The farmer needs the church as every human being needs the church for his own personal salvation; but he needs the church in a more urgent manner because it can bring to bear important social forces to counteract the disadvantages of his isolated position.

The farmer has the same fundamental needs as the city man: Religion, health, education, recreation, fellowship, material well-being. All of these things come normally to human beings through the agency of social organization. It is organized society which makes these blessings available. We are so accustomed to the social framework in which we live that we take it for granted, as we do the air we breathe, and seldom become conscious of our indebtedness to it. Man is a social being, and his ordinary development will depend most largely upon his social relationship.

It is a matter of observation that the farmer gets less of all these things which I have mentioned from his social environment than does the city man. Why? Because the ordinary condition of social life is proximity to our neighbor and that is the one thing which the farm lacks. In a city a school district may be organized in half a dozen blocks—a health clinic maintained in a small neighborhood, a library, a recreation center, a church —with hundreds, even thousands, of patrons within a mile of paved streets. Under such conditions it is easy for social organization to function and in the city social organizations are multiplied. Now the most significant thing about rural life is the lack of effective social organization—and the reason is simple—because the atmosphere is rare and only the strongest and most cohesive of social agencies can survive, not to speak of rendering effective service. This is primarily the reason why the country needs the church so urgently. Because the church is the strongest and most cohesive social force known to history it can render a social service to the sparsely settled

* A radio address delivered over Station WOI, Iowa State College.

countryside through a long term of years incomparably more important than any other agency.

In the United States there is no other social agency which can knit together the rural community as can religion. At this moment rural parishes are doing the best community development work that is being done anywhere in this country—though nowhere are parishes in the United States approaching the social efficiency in many countries of Europe. Religion, education, fellowship, health and finance are the needs of a community. In a city you may conceivably have many different organizations promoting each of these things. In the country, population is sparse and over-organization comes soon. There must be the integration of effort or all effort will be wasted. The rural parish has the vitality to communicate life to these rural enterprises. The American farmer is in urgent need of the rural parish which is wide-awake to its social responsibilities and opportunities.

The primacy of the family among social institutions is a first principle. The ideal home is the source of population and the nursery of faith and morals. Sanctity and indissolubility are its foundation and domestic unity the keystone of the arch which supports our Christian civilization. The impelling reason for the concern of the church with rural problems is to be found in the special adaptability of the farm home to the production of strong, wholesome, Christian family life.

The most important distinction between farming and other industries lies in the fact that it provides not merely a means of livelihood but a mode of living. Like other industries, it must face economic problems of production and of marketing. But unlike other industries, it makes provision for family life, and that in an altogether unique way. The farm is the natural habitat of the family, and shares with that institution its claim to a central position in human affairs. To say that the farm is a home, as well as a business, is to make an important, but yet only superficial statement. The real significance of the farm for civilization does not consist in its having a parcel of land set aside for human habitation: cities have that. It consists in the fact that the industry of agriculture is essentially of a character to provide the natural environment for wholesome, vigorous, and prolific family life.

The first condition of wholesome family life is unity. The forces of modern industry threaten the family with disintegration. On the farm alone, among contemporary industries, the economic forces work for the unity of the home. Father, mother and children are there engaged in the same intellectual interests, make the same social contacts. In the city the business man is away from his family; his occupation often is unintelligible to his wife and a mystery to his children. His business and social contacts are quite apart from his family life. The recreational life of his children draws them into still other channels. On the farm it is different. The problems of production and marketing furnish a common intellectual interest to all the members; guests enjoy the hospitality of the whole family; and the children's pleasure is a domestic matter. One is not surprised in

view of these facts, to learn that divorce, the great menace of urban civilization, is very infrequent in the country.

Not only does farm life promote the unity of the home, but also it provides an economic setting in which children are an asset. On the farm there are a multiplicity of simple duties of brief duration which can be performed by almost the youngest children. Children are not capable of long, sustained efforts, either mental or physical, and are consequently unsuited for the industrial organization of cities, where tasks have become standardized, and where no labor is profitable unless it conforms to the monotonous routine that the factory system marks out for it. The child-labor laws are chiefly framed with a view to safeguarding city children from the monotony and drudgery that would stunt their bodies and their minds. As a result of industrial organization, city parents have the greatest difficulty in finding suitable employment for children of school age, although they recognize that enforced idleness is only less harmful to the child than industrial servitude. Thus it happens that in the cities children of school age are economically a liability and are coming to be regarded by many city families, and even by professional social workers, as an expensive luxury sparingly to be indulged in.

On the farm it is altogether different. Additional children do not put the family to proportionately additional expense. Food for use in the home is produced in abundance, and even the small children are of service in caring for the poultry and garden; and when they reach the age of ten or twelve years, they find scores of occupations suited to their age and capacity, in which they play a productive part, and at the same time, themselves benefit by the work. Without any prejudice to their own interests, children are an economic asset on the farm.

The indictment against the farm because of its supposed incompatibility with the best interests of its womenfolk has grown to impressive proportion as to volume even if not as to convincing quality. It is admitted that farms must be conducted in order to provide an ample supply of primary human necessities, but much commiseration is extended to the women who have to spend their lives in the farm industry. Truly a dark picture is painted of the farm woman's cramped outlook. Let us catalog her troubles.

There is her isolation which prevents her from enjoying the alluring social round of her city sister. The lack of leisure which gives her no time to improve her mind. The absence of household conveniences which reduces her life to one of unspeakable drudgery. The want of creature comforts which renders her lot hard and uninviting; the monotony which springs from the unvarying stream of simple duties, the lack of amusement and recreation incident to distance from moving pictures and dance halls; the grime which is supposed to be a consequence of unpaved streets; and more distressing than all to a truly refined nature, the social inferiority which her rural environment inescapably fastens on the farm woman. This disheartening picture is not really complete until it is set in the roseate frame of the city woman's enviable situation. No worry, no hard work, no discomforts, no grime, a life of ease, of culture, of refinement, of social distinction. What a contrast! Yes, what a contrast on paper! But where

in the actual universe does either of the contrasted groups live? Nowhere. Simply nowhere.

It is certainly unnecessary to undertake to prove to anyone who has ever lived in a city that the city woman corresponding to the description given does not exist. Let us consider the farm woman.

It is true that labor-saving conveniences are not as common on farms as it is desirable that they should be. Running water, and the application of power (with the supply of light) to housework are devices which have not been extensively employed in the farm home as in the city home. Owing to the compact character of the city these things were more easily furnished to city dwellers. But the contrast is not essential and even at present is tending to vanish. There are many farm homes now as well equipped with these conveniences as are the great majority of city homes, and with the rapid development of rural engineering, especially in the application of electricity to farm needs, the farm woman will not be greatly handicapped in this respect. Besides, no small part of the farm woman's enjoyment will consist in progressively securing these labor savers.

Certainly all the institutions of religion should be involved constructively in promoting the opportunities for a richer and fuller life, socially, culturally and spiritually among the great agricultural population of America. The responsibility for leadership in the program for rural health and recreation, education, domestic comfort, esthetic and cultural development and the whole field of worship and religious instruction and the important work of interdenominational tolerance and goodwill—leadership in all this program devolves upon the country church to the limit of its ability. But the responsibility is shared also by the institutions of the cities and of the entire nation.

CONSERVING RURAL VALUES IN RELIGIOUS SERVICE

REV. A. H. RAPKING
West Virginia Extension Service

The size of the trees and the kind or quality of crops that grow are reliable tests as to the fertility of the soil. Five hundred bushels of potatoes do not grow on poor soil nor do tall stalwart oaks grow where the soil and climate are not adapted to the development of that kind of tree. The greatest of all teachers said, "By their fruit ye shall know them." What are some of the values in country life that should be conserved as factors in the development of so large a number of our outstanding leaders and as great contributions to the progress of civilization?

There are as I see it two distinct types of religious service; the one as carried on through the services of the church such as worship or a program of religious education. The other is that of helping to meet all of life's real needs in the spirit of Christ. In other words, to me, the church services are vital and dynamic in so far as they help to equip the worshippers for the task of making their contribution toward the

Christianizing of the total life of the community, the state, the nation and the world. Not those who say, "Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven but those who do my Father's will," said the greatest demonstrator of truth and religion.

Then too, we must appreciate the fact that religion is not static but dynamic. The real religion of Jesus Christ is the most dynamic and revolutionary force at work in the world today. I believe it is as much due to the permeating influence of the Gospel of Christ in all corners of the earth as to the leavening influence of science that we are living in one of the most revolutionary periods of the world's history.

With our expanding conception of the universe and the marvelous things that are being discovered of the details of the universe, we have a much better basis for a greater faith in God. We may conserve the faith of our fathers and of the countryside by challenging the country folks to expand their faith in terms of science and scientific agriculture and our enlarging conception of the universe.

The honesty, simplicity, loyalty, sociability, and humanity of the countryside needs to be conserved. The face-to-face relationships of families and neighbors; the tendency to help each other in time of sickness and needs; the spirit of the log rollings and corn huskings; bean pickings and apple parings all are valuable.

The ideals, attitudes and motives arising from this old-time coöperation must be enlarged if they are to be conserved. Today the farmers who produce wool need to become interested in the best methods of producing wool around the world. The beef cattle man needs to become aware of the fact that he is only one of millions who are helping to meet the world's needs by grazing and feeding cattle. Today farmers need to have respect for the rights of the city man, the Chinese and the Japanese, and feel the call to help make the world neighborhood a brotherhood.

The rural home is another of the great rural values. Undoubtedly, the church and state, and civilization as a whole has derived greater benefits from the influences set in motion in rural homes, than from any other institution. But here again we will not conserve the real values of the rural home by encouraging the rearing of large families, nor will we help in advancing the Kingdom of Heaven much by praying that the old spinning wheel and the old-time breakfast menu be reinstated. As in religion, individual salvation has to be combined with social salvation so the rural homes will only conserve the values of the rural home worth conserving in so far as these homes help to save other homes. A farmer said to me one day, "We used to bring up our boys and girls as families but now we bring them up as communities." In fact, the experiences in the rural home that are worth conserving are a basis for the development of a real neighborhood spirit and a world brotherhood.

Certainly we would not want to conserve the rural values of the country school by reintroducing the program of reading, writing and arithmetic, taught to the tune of the hickory stick. In this institution there is need for the leavening and broadening influence of Christian service lest

the institution that seems to be closest to the country people become Prussianized to the extent that the institution that should be our greatest bulwark of true democracy tend to become a cancer in our modern civilization. The training of the head and heart need to go hand in hand, lest the training of the head becomes an enemy of the heart.

The values of the rural church services such as earnestness, sincerity, frankness and the facing of the realities of the spiritual world should be conserved. But certainly we should be hastening the extinction of many country churches which retain the old type of sermons with the kenote of "Be good or you will be damned."

It seems to me the church services have been too much a begging proposition trying to persuade God to cover up our meanness and littleness and fit into our two-by-four programs. In order to conserve the good in our church services we must attempt to develop a more positive and adequate philosophy of life. God and Christ must be given the central place in our thinking and teaching.

Our worship and instruction program will thus express itself by permeating all the activities of life with the Christian spirit. The church in this expressional program will not attempt to meet needs that can best be met by other organizations or institutions but through sympathy and a spirit of intelligent goodwill will help to give dignity and meaning to the humblest and the greatest tasks. It is sometimes a greater service to give a cup of cold water to a sufferer than to deliver a sermon on Sunday.

The gospel of the stewardship of soils as well as souls must be preached. Illustrations from nature and modern scientific methods of agriculture will help to open the windows of heaven and aid the farmer in feeling that he is indeed a colaborer with God as he tills the soil, feeds the hogs, or milks the cows. Every day will become a holy day and the land of the countryside around the world become holy land, because in and through folks Christ will be walking up and down the lanes, riding across fields on tractors and thus share in carrying on the necessary work of the world. To Christ there are no common tasks if these tasks help to meet life's needs and are performed in the spirit of Him who went about doing good.

FACTS FROM AN IOWA CHURCH SURVEY

W. NORRIS WENTWORTH
Ames, Iowa

One of the original plans of this conference was to prepare a group of maps of Iowa showing various interests in the state. I was assigned the task of showing the churches. Due to unavailable material and lack of time, I have not been able to prepare such a map. I have had many interesting and eye-opening experiences in attempting to collect the material and I am just now, after about a year, beginning to find what I have been searching for.

I should like to take time to tell of the different suggestions I traced down, but I can only say that I found a set of plat books of recent compilation in the Historical Library at Des Moines which purported to show the location of the open country churches in each county of the state. I have found since that these maps vary by almost 13% from the reports sent in by secretaries of County Councils of Religious Education. Be that as it may, we have approximately eleven hundred open country churches in the state. They are far more numerous in the older section—or the eastern half—than in the newer part in the west.

As to the condition of these churches, reports have come in from some thirty of these county secretaries to bear out the popular ideas, for of 19 who made comment on the status of the open country, 8 say it is on the decline, 6 say there has been no change, and 5 rather grudgingly admit that conditions may not be really bad. Several remark at the indifference of the membership to the program of the church; only one dared say or perhaps was able to say that a new response to the right kind of leadership had been noted. Taking the whole state, the rural population has dropped from 49.7% in 1910 to 42.07% in 1925, or a loss of 87,837, so it is not surprising that a few of the churches are closing.

The above are general statements that may hold true of the whole state but I wanted something a little more concrete. So I have made study of about 75 of the churches in the Congregational Conference of Iowa over a period of 68 years. However, of the 75, there were only 52 that might be called normal churches, so the rest of my remarks will be based on these. I have divided them into five groups: (1) Larger Cities, (2) Larger county seats under 7,000, (3) County Seats under 3,900, (4) Rural Communities under 1,500, (5) Open Country. I have traced their membership through the period and have shown it on the charts by the black line. I have also shown the population by a red line. In most cases this latter figure is divided by ten in order to get the two lines near enough to show comparison. In the case of the open country group, I have used the township population other than towns and villages. I have found the following statements can be made and to them I invite your attention.

The churches in the large cities show a steady increase in membership, as well as a steady increase in population.

Churches in the towns of from 4,000 to 9,000 also show a steady increase in membership, while the population has suffered a slump in the past five years.

The same is true of the smaller county seats.

The membership in the rural community shows much greater variation than any of the preceding groups although the membership has been increasing steadily since 1910, while the population here has also dropped in the last five years.

The open country seems to be suffering the most. It has been losing membership since 1900 except the last few years where a gain is shown. The population has been dropping rapidly since 1918, and I am sure that

the picture would be much less attractive were it not for churches like Golden and Wittemburg who have done so well in the past few years.

I am well aware of the fact that mere membership of a church is a poor indication of the church's activity and effectiveness. It is as Mr. Montgomery, Director of Religious Education of the Congregational Conference of Iowa says: "It is easy to get people on the roll, but its hard to get them to answer roll-call." On the other hand, if a church has competent leadership the membership is bound to be affected just as much or more as when the leadership is incompetent.

I realize that I am dealing with a very small group of the churches in Iowa in the remarks and figures that I have shown, but I firmly believe that what is true of one religious group will be true of many others where other conditions are similar, and that the conditions of the Congregational Churches of Iowa are a good indication of the condition of several of the other denominations or groups.

I would conclude with the following table:

	Population				*Churches*			
Grouping of Churches	*Gaining*	*Losing*	*Unchanged*	*P.C.*	*Gaining*	*Losing*	*Unchanged*	*P.C.*
Active open country (9)	1	6	2	—1.4%	4	3	2	+5.6
Inactive open country (9)	1	7	1	—1.4%	0	4	5	
Without pastor during 5 yrs.								
Rural communities (8)	4	4	0	—8.1%	6	2	0	+5.
Small county seats (10)	0	9	1	—8.5%	7	3	0	+14.4
Up to 3,900								
Large county seats (8)	6	2	0	—9.6%	8	0	0	+14.2
Up to 7,000								
Cities (8)	7	1	0	+3.4%	6	1	1	+2.4

LARGER PARISH PLANS

REV. ERNEST LARSEN
Hyannis, Nebraska

The ideal rural church parish is not necessarily "a larger parish." The ideal is simply a parish with a well organized, well equipped and well financed church organization at the center, that is carrying on a wholesome and constructive program for all of the people within the area served.

The larger parish, is a way out of difficult church situations. It seeks to group churches that are conveniently located, in order that they might have things together which none of them, perhaps, could have alone. Two or more churches, sometimes a dozen, can be grouped into a single coöperative enterprise. They must be rather fortunately located, with passable roads connecting them, and with a natural lay of the land that suggests group solidarity. By pooling their resources they can have a better ministry, better equipment, a larger program and a better spirit. Many such churches could not even begin to employ a minister on their own resources, some of them only a poor one, but by working together some of their

ideals can be realized, hope is restored, and the local church gets into action again, with a service such as no community can long afford to do without.

It is also true that many well trained ministers will gladly give their best services to such a coöperative enterprise, because it offers a hopeful solution of the problem of rural religious needs, it approaches the problem in a big way, and if these men are not used in this type of work they will be lost to the rural cause even though they have a natural bent in that direction. Two or three ministers employed by coöperating churches can produce more honest work because they work together. Three ministers serving let us say nine churches, can do more for those nine churches by pooling their time and effort and by departmentizing their work, than any one of them could do for three of the churches.

The Sandhill United Parish in Nebraska, in which I work, grew out of the fact that three adjoining small towns were limited to the services of one minister, and it was difficult even to support him. There was no visible effort to coöperate and each church could use its congregational prerogative of acting independently. A minister could be hired in one church and fired in another, paid in one and starved in another. Obviously the first thing to do when once the possibility of a coöperative parish was realized, was to organize a parish council, to be a clearing agency for all inter-church relationships. That kind of a parish council is a method used everywhere and indispensable to the success of a larger parish. It provides an opportunity for considering all important church problems and activities in the light of a purposeful will to coöperate.

Once the Sandhill United Parish got under way the churches were in a position to undertake larger things. Two open country centers were opened up right at the start because they were logical community centers and lay within the trade zone of the towns where the churches stand, the one twenty-seven miles from town, the other sixteen. These two centers have been maintained now for about six years, with a fair social and religious program in each place, always with mutual benefit to town and country community. One of them has now evolved into a thriving open country church, sixteen miles from any other church. Recently a neighboring church of a different denomination has asked for and has received a share in the parish. Two ministers are now employed as easily as was one before the larger parish method was undertaken.

The Little Sioux Larger Parish, centering at Spencer, Iowa, grew up as I understand it, out of the fact that a stronger town church had a vital interest in the surrounding rural area, and seeking a method for effective service, undertook a coöperative parish plan with three or four neighboring churches and employed a second minister together with them.

One of the outstanding larger parishes in the State of Maine, grew out of the fact that the ministers of the different churches in a town, several of them, were somehow led by the spirit of God to see the needs of the surrounding communities of country folks, and voluntarily associated themselves and offered an efficient and systematic extension service to the

communities that desire it, involving the very hopeful element of interdenominational coöperation.

Larger parish organizations evolve out of many varying situations, yet not all town and country churches can be cared for in that manner. As a method the larger parish movement is still young. It has not gone far beyond the demonstration stage. Ideal larger parish groupings will dawn on churches from time to time, and church leaders, usually higher officials, will it is hoped, eventually receive sufficient grace to help churches into coöperative arrangements rather than hinder them.

The Plateau Valley Larger Parish at Collbran, Colorado, has in addition to other things, a health program with a neat and well equipped four bed hospital. It is one of the finest things that the churches of this parish do. It was undertaken because the ranch folks of the fertile valley needed medical care close at hand and life was often endangered by travel over mountain roads to the nearest hospital. This parish also maintains a good library in conjunction with the Collbran High School.

Other variations in the program of the larger parishes can be classed under the general terms of efforts to enrich town and country experiences, through the perspective of Christian idealism. There is no stereotyped program for churches in larger parishes, because there are no stereotyped country situations. Programs vary according to needs, and there should never be any effort made to undertake activities that can be adequately cared for by other agencies. The larger parish plan offers first of all a religious program, but it dares to serve the varied needs of any home or of any group within the parish area in the name of religion, because a modern interpretation of the Gospel places humanity at the center of its interest.

THE CLASS "A" RURAL PROGRAM FOR CHURCHES

REV. A. H. BARTTER
Gilman, Iowa

We ministers of the rural church in Iowa have come to a critical time. We want to give something to the religious world. The rural church must make an adjustment to modern conditions if she is to remain a vital force in the religious life of the country. Sensing this the Extension Department of Iowa State College came to our rescue with this plan of the Class "A" Rural Church Program. It is this that I have to present to you. We invite your criticisms of it and any suggestions upon it.

It has seemed to me, ever since I have been thinking of the ministry, that ministers have looked upon the rural church in one of three ways. Some men have looked upon the rural church as a calf pasture or a stepping stone toward a larger field, i. e., a city church. Others have looked upon it as a place to rest during their older days. While to others the rural church is a place to preach as long as you could get nothing better. Occasionally I found a man who was in love with the rural church.

The Class "A" Rural Church Program is an attempt toward building up this new morale. It pretty much explains itself.

A. There are two essential basic pivots upon which to build as a foundation. They are: (1) The principal service of the rural church is spiritual. It should provide weekly services of spiritual inspiration; religious instruction for children and adults; and pastoral visitation. With that I think we will all agree. (2) The rural church program must have distinctly rural characteristic of a progressive type. So many of the plans sent us by our denominational headquarters are based upon the large city church with its equipment and peculiar problems. The Congregational headquarters sends out a great deal of very fine material to help its churches in their financial problems in the fall. Yet for most rural churches December 1st is an impossible time for an every member canvass.

The social and economic interests of rural folk differ somewhat from those of city folk. This again necessitates a program based upon distinctly rural characteristics. Just a few of these social and economic differences are:

1. Their relationship to food supplies.
2. Their relationship to work.
3. The type of financial income.
4. The stability of occupation.
5. Family relationships.

All have a bearing upon the rural personality and the type of church program that will reach the rural person.

To achieve this rural minded program we suggest the following:

1. That the pastor become a member of a farmers organization, such as the Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmer's Union, etc. Here in Iowa we are receiving splendid coöperation from the Iowa Farm Bureau. This organization has recommended to the county organizations that they offer the privileges of associate membership in the Farm Bureau to any rural clergyman whom they think is worthy of it. Here is a copy of the application blank for membership that they are using. This has only been done this fall which means that we cannot tell you yet how the ministers will take it up.

2. That the church furnish, from its membership, or through its pastor, local leaders for one or more rural education activities which are developed in coöperation with the county representatives of the Iowa State College and the United States Department of Agriculture; such as 4-H clubs—farmstead beautification—soil improvement—poultry management—monthly community programs, etc.

3. That the church building be made available for meetings of farmers organizations. That heat, light, etc. costs to be borne by the organization.

4. That the church develope an annual Rural Life Sunday with a special program arranged for in coöperation with farm leaders. This was done very well in Marshall County last June. The county Sunday School Association divides the county into five sections, one in each corner with Marshalltown in the center. It was arranged that all sections would meet

on the same day and center their attention upon the church and rural life. The Extension Department of Iowa State College sent a speaker to each corner of the county. Many fine comments have come from that day.

Now about the mechanism through which this Class "A" Rural Church Program is to work:

1. We think it is well for every interested rural church to enroll with the Rural Organization Section, of the Extension Service at Ames. These churches are already linked up with a larger church unit. So far they have neglected that equality important task of uniting with a larger rural unit. I can see no reason why we should continue holding so tightly to the one and to ignore the other. We are hoping that by means of this Class "A" Rural Church Program we may remedy this condition.

2. Religion today is undergoing some tremendous and far-reaching changes. It is no longer considered as something apart *from* real life. It is rapidly coming to be understood as being a vital part *of* real life. Religion has come to be a part of ones attitude of love, or desire for better things, for better living and serving. Religion is interested in the farmer's economic welfare quite as much as in his soul, for the two are closely linked together. With this in mind we are suggesting in the second piece of mechanism that the local rural church in coöperation with the County Agricultural Agent, develop a program of adult or at least junior out of school educational activities in agriculture. This we think is religious work.

3. The third item under this section needs little comment. Reports will be made to the Rural Organization Section of the Extension Service at Ames. These reports in turn will be sent to the various denominational superintendents for approval after which a joint certificate will be issued. This is a copy of the suggested report blank.

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

DUTIES OF MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS IN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

KNUTE ESPE
Secretary, Iowa Coöperative Livestock Shippers

Much can be said about the importance of the duties and responsibilities of members, officers, and directors of coöperative associations because the progress and final success of the entire coöperative movement depends upon, first, how well these leaders accept these responsibilities, and, second, how completely they carry them out.

A discussion of these duties and responsibilities falls naturally into two parts, first, the member, and second, the officers and directors. It is a well-known fact that no leader can go farther than the members are willing to follow and that the members will progress no farther than their leaders are able and willing to take them.

The first duty of any member is to be loyal and give all his patronage to his coöperative association, not part of it part of the time, *but all of it all of the time!* No member should ever rest, satisfied that he has performed all his responsibilities or duties as a member, either, until he has induced everyone of his neighbors to do the same thing.

"Hiram" in the *National Farm News,* says, "Loyalty has one o' the grandest meanin's o' any work in the dictionary an' the more I learn about it the better I like it, I'll be henpecked if I don't. Instead o' it meanin' somethin' we've all got, it means somethin' a heap o' folks ain't got, but ought to have. There ain't nothin' that'll build greatness any quicker, any truer, or any stronger, than the true exercise o' loyalty."

Loyalty of the members will give a volume of business which enables the local association to render 100% service, bigger bargaining power, and more efficient operation. Lack of loyalty largely destroys all these essentials.

It is the responsibility of the members to attend all the meetings of the association and offer constructive suggestions for its future operations. When asked to serve in any capacity, the member should eagerly accept this responsibility as an opportunity to do something constructive for the coöperative movement. He should not accept any office or duty if unable or unwilling to do his best.

We feel that it is unquestionably the duty of every member to inform himself in regard to the problems and accomplishments of his association and not expect someone else to force that information upon him. It goes without saying that the member should be liberal in his application of the "Golden Rule" in all his relationships with the management.

In coöperative live stock marketing work in Iowa we have found the membership agreement or producers contract a valuable aid in formulating better membership relationships. The agreement used in Iowa is not coercive but it is a plain statement and agreement on the part of both the member and the association that they will perform certain duties that are necessary to hold the association together. Many associations that are now operating under contract state that they could not operate today without the membership agreement.

Not all the duties and responsibilities are lodged with the membership by any means. The average member will "stick" if he has something worth sticking to. The officers and directors are the chosen leaders and the responsibility of making the association worth while lies largely in their hands.

It is the duty of the directors to take over the complete management of the association's affairs. They cannot delegate this responsibility to any one else. Many have tried to do so only to "wake up" when it is perhaps too late.

Regular monthly board meetings should be held. Without board meetings directors are of practically no value. Yet we know of associations that never held a single meeting during the year.

The directors should authorize the keeping of a real set of accounts and then see to it that they are completely kept. They should demand and obtain a detailed monthly report of the business done, from the manager. They should provide a commercial audit of the association's records at stated periods and most certainly at the end of the business year. The directors should in turn make a detailed annual report to the members at the annual meeting that will tell them something more than the number of cars shipped or total gross business or the balance or deficit in the bank.

The Membership has not much opportunity to inform itself unless the directors dig out the facts and make them available in printed reports and through meetings of the membership. The viewpoint and relationship of the members will be to large extent just what the board of directors make them. If the directors manage inefficiently or do not manage at all the member will not be loyal. If directors do not set up real meetings and a helpful program, the members will not attend, will not be informed and will not follow their leaders. Many associations now are holding several membership meetings a year. They are advertising these meetings well in advance of the date and they are putting on a feed and an instructive program.

Perhaps the most important duty of the directors is the employing of a capable manager. Associations are learning from experience that the best man available is none too good and that a capable manager is the best insurance that the association can buy for the protection of its future success. Many boards have yet to learn that the best manager, although higher priced, is the cheapest man in the end. Accounting of association records have demonstrated time and again that some managers consistently net a higher return to the member for the products handled than other.

Much of this is due to the fact that the directors and manager are alert, studying their lessons and making use of every opportunity afforded them through improved business methods that will return the highest net dollar.

Another responsibility of officers and directors and managers is that of coöperating with neighboring associations, their trade association, the extension service, general farm organizations, and other agencies through which they can both give and receive help in solving their mutual problems.

The development of local leaders and getting them to assume responsibility for putting over the program in their own local communities, is the crying need of the hour in coöperative work.

In our work in Iowa we have made some real strides in this direction through the county and district group meetings of officers, directors and managers, that the state association has sponsored in about 38 counties. Some of these districts have been holding these meetings for over five years. The Agricultural Extension Service and the County Farm Bureaus have coöperated in all this work. These meetings have been conducted as a "friendly forum." They have been very instructive and helpful and it is perhaps needless to say that these meetings are locating, developing, and putting to work local leaders who are able and willing to take responsibility.

THE PARISH CREDIT UNION

REV. J. M. CAMPBELL
Ames, Iowa

I should like to give you a picture of a credit union at work; it will serve to bring home in a more vivid manner. I shall choose as my example the credit union organized in my own parish, St. Cecilia's at Ames, Iowa. I choose to speak of this not because it has accomplished the most or met with the greatest response from the members of the parish but because I can speak from first hand of the work it has done. I have another reason. Our credit union is a small one and a review of its work will perhaps serve the purpose of this conference better than the description of the work done by a larger credit union. The average parish credit union in this country must necessarily be small rather than large, for the simple reason that the average parish is small rather than large. Our work has been accomplished with a membership that could be gathered from within a small parish.

Our first year was governed by the policy of "sitting tight." We organized with fifteen members and added but four more during the first year. These few deposited only in small amounts. We paid no dividend for the reason that our earnings were used to pay for the books and other office material. At the beginning of the second year I was compelled to leave the parish on account of ill health and did not return until October of the same year. During my absence four new members were added

bringing the total membership to twenty-two. Our deposits increased from one hundred and sixty dollars to a little over three hundred dollars.

Now what is the story that we have to tell since October nineteen hundred and twenty-eight. Our membership has increased from twenty-two to forty-four, and our deposits have grown from a little over three hundred dollars to over four thousand dollars. We made thirty loans in the past year aggregating almost five thousand dollars. These loans were made for the purchase of household equipment, automobiles, clothing, payment of notes drawing exhorbitant rates of interest, taxes, insurance, rent, college matriculation fees, payment of scattered debts and the purchase of poultry and livestock by tradesmen on small acreages. In some instances our loans meant a saving to borrowers of more than thirty per cent, in others fifteen per cent, and in any case at least three per cent. We loaned four hundred dollars to two young married men who had borrowed from loan sharks at the rate of three and one-half per cent a month on unpaid balances, which means an annual rate of interest of forty-two per cent. The net interest cost to them of our loans was less than five per cent. Every dollar of these loans has been repaid. On the purchase of automobiles our loans meant a saving of fifteen per cent. On the purchase of household equipment some of our members were saved as high as fifteen per cent. To give an example. A young man had arranged for the purchase of a fifty dollar washing machine from one of the large mail order houses. The machine was to be paid for in monthly payments and the total cost including carrying charges was to be sixty dollars. We loaned him the money and he paid cash, and the machine cost him less than fifty-two dollars.

But our best work in the loan field has been in the case of certain tradesmen who were able to buy no more than the bare necessities of life for their families and in some instances not even that. An example of this is the case of a family of seven. The husband was drawing a salary of one hundred and ten dollars per month. The family lived in a small house on a single lot and therefore had to purchase all foodstuffs. We suggested to the family that they move to a small acreage outside the city limits on which was equipment for chickens and livestock and that we would loan them the money with which they might purchase the stock. Co-makers with security and character were found, the family moved to the acreage and the loan was made. This was more than two years ago. Today this family own poultry and livestock the income from which almost maintains them in the necessaries of life, leaving nearly the entire salary of the husband for the liquidation of their loans and for saving. They are contemplating at the present time the purchase of a small acreage of their own. This piece of work was done through loans that did not aggregate three hundred dollars.

In most of the cases our members never saved anything before the organization of the credit union. Some of these are now making deposits of over twenty dollars a month and in a few instances deposits per month run as high as thirty dollars. An interesting fact is that some of the members began with deposits as low as a dollar a month but in a short

time increased their deposits to ten and twenty dollars a month. We have several members, of course who are saving very little and for the reason that their means do not permit it. We hope to be able in the near future to establish these families with a larger income and so give them the opportunity to save. Some of our members too have obligations on their homes which use up all their surpluses.

But the full story of the material service that we have been able to render is not told in terms of loans and savings. The members here and there have been bettered by the influence of the credit union. They have been taught to value credit more and those who have been privileged to serve on the board of directors, particularly the younger members, become more responsible. They are handling a business and they come to realize this, all of which tends to make them more conservative in the handling of their own affairs and moneys.

The credit union is however more than an agency rendering material services. In a parish this is certainly so. In the first place men are drawn together, in some instances men who scarcely had more than a passing acquaintanceship. The average layman, and certainly it ought to be true of the average Catholic layman, is charitably inclined. But he lacks the opportunity of interesting himself in his neighbor's welfare, at least of interesting himself in such a way as not to humiliate his neighbor. He lacks as a rule the instrument which would enable him to give expression to his charitable interest. The credit union provides him with the instrument. Through it he is able to assist his neighbor and at the same time permit his neighbor to retain his self respect. The credit union cultivates the soul and makes easier the operation of the grace of divine charity. The credit union serves to bring the members of a group into a more neighborly spirit and this cannot but assist the Church in her spiritual mission.

There is another spiritual gain from the credit union. Too often the laity have the impression that the Church is more interested in the physical needs of the Church than in the material needs of the members of the parish. They hardly ever see the pastor as having a deep interest in their temporal welfare. They do see the pastor calling for help for the church. Both church and pastor are misunderstood. The church has sympathy for the needy and the pastor certainly would much prefer to see his people enjoying a fair competence and happy than see them suffering under the strain of heavy temporal burdens. But the pastor is helpless as a rule to give real expression to the feelings of his heart. He may speak words of encouragement to the heavily laden but what are words in the presence of financial distress. The pastor lacks the means and lacking the credit union he has no instrument through which he may work to relieve the needy.

Now the credit union gives the pastor his opportunity to show his people that his concern and interest is not merely the church plant. When he hears their stories of distress he is able to offer a remedy in many instances. This interest on the part of the pastor increases the love and the respect of the people for him.

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM CO-OPERATIVES?

R. M. HALL
Clear Lake, Iowa

When the question was put to me as to the number of coöperative associations I should join, and what benefits I should expect from them, I was in a quandary. I must confess I can give neither my listeners nor myself any satisfactory answer.

There are so many local peculiarities and varied situations that no definite stardard can be given. Likewise members vary in their capacity both in giving and receiving benefits. There are localities where the coöperative movement is fairly well understood, and somewhat wisely adjusted, while again we may find the condition rather chaotic both as to purpose and service.

The first thing in establishing a coöperative association is to determine whether it is called for or not. Will it be of any real service, or is it merely another organization placed there as one more competitor? In promoting a coöperative association we must bear in mind that it must fill a well defined need. To create an uncalled for enthusiasm, and stage an emotional campaign and use all energies to get the members to sign the dotted line will bring us nowhere. It is ruinous to the enterprise and costly to the members.

Another fact we must remember both in promoting and joining a coöperative association that it is simply a corporation and as such, has perfectly human limitations. When it goes into marketing it cannot do that which is not there to be done. It has no superhuman powers. It cannot sell at a profit to the producers all and everything that may be delivered to it.

I sometimes fear we are putting forth too much enthusiasm and not sufficient common sense into our coöperative movement. We are in the same position as the steamboat whose steam was all spent in blowing the whistle. I believe in enthusiasm but not the too highly emotional variety. We must stage a movement where enthusiasm must be backed up by real results. If this is adhered to, the enthusiasm will go into a working program rather than in blowing a whistle.

I am of the opinion that a vast majority of coöperative members are expecting results that are beyond the power of the organization to render. This is evident by the current criticism we often hear. If the coöperative cannot improve upon the price of a local buyer, or arbitrarily fix high prices, then something is wrong, either in the management or its set-up.

The idea of the coöperative is not arbitrarily to fix a high price, nor to create a monopoly. If such could be done, it would be only momentary. "Monopoly prices cause less consumption and increased production, and any commodity so held must be sold sooner or later in competition with new crops to pay members, and prices drop accordingly."—"Farmers are unequally skilled in economic production, so, considering market conditions, a coöperative cannot always return an equal profit to every grower."

I believe it is a conceded fact that not everybody is qualified to be a member of a coöperative. It is reasonable to expect a person who has no compensating qualities for coöperative work will not make a successful member, either for himself or for the association. Nothing can be gained by coercing a man to join nor to have one join simply to get it started. I have little respect for the man who waits to join until it is a going success. A man should join a coöperative association with a somewhat definite purpose and be willing to lend his assistance to success.

Now how many coöperative associations should I join. This must be left to the individual, and the popularity of a move may cause us to become over zealous. My opinion is to join no more than economic condition warrants. It may be well to be careful and not be dead members and cause a burden to be added to a struggling association rather than an asset. Besides we may be in the position of a woman with too many suitors, we may get our dates mixed.

In these coöperative movements lie the biggest burden of farm relief. Coöperation may not be the end to be attained, but we feel certain it is a means to that end. There is much to be said with regard to this movement but so much has been said and written that whatever I may add will have no bearing on the result. Coöperation is not to be used as one would a pair of shoes or a suit of clothes, either for show or shelter. Coöperation is a frame of mind, a desire to help and be helped. When coöperation ventures out to buy or sell, it becomes a business enterprise and a good business practice must be pursued. One of the main factors in good business is cutting down overhead expenses and still retaining efficiency. This I believe, coöperative selling can and must do.

It must be understood that coöperation is no cure for human shortcomings. It may help us to overcome some of those shortcomings. There is where the burden rests with leaders of the movement. But here is where one must use caution and not venture too far on unchartered seas. A man cannot master the set-up and workings of all these various coöperative movements. He must align himself with such coöperatives that will do him the most good, and set himself to develop that which he is best qualified to master if that is a term that can be used.

There are other features in coöperative movement of which it is well to take note and not to expect too great a success. So far, I believe, it has proven that where coöperatives have gone into business with a somewhat large capital stock, the venture has more or less failed in its movement. Coöperation seems better adapted where very little or no capital is needed to begin its operation. In the large field of exchange, it seems to thrive and succeed admirably. There are obvious reasons why this may be true. I shall not venture to discuss the merits and demerits of these movements; except this, corporations seem to succeed best on large capital, coöperatives on small or no investments.

Management is another feature that has much to do with success or failure. I believe here is the biggest single item that will determine the final outcome. I wish here to state that too often, it is either the board or the association's members that are the underlying cause. We are prone

to think of coöperation as a charitable institution, where most of the work of both managers and others who put time and effort into it, should do it gratuitously. This may be a very fine thing, but in our age, of swift changes, and keen sense of money values, it is expecting the impossible. Good managers are underpaid, therefore, very hard to get. A business organization should take note of a man's value in terms of service rendered and pay accordingly. I will admit that there are managers who do not earn the price paid; but that may also be the organization's fault by being satisfied with inferior service. It reminds me of the situation in one of our northern counties where a change in county agents had taken place, not altogether for the advancement or the cause. A sturdy Swedish farmer said, "We had a very good county agent, we paid him good wages, then big business came and took him away. Now, we have a county agent, we pay him fifteen hundred dollars, big business don't want him, we don't want him, but we can't get rid of him."

RURAL SCHOOLS

EDUCATION IN COUNTRY LIFE

C. B. Smith
Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture

It is recorded that man began his career in a garden and that the tree of knowledge was planted there. That tree of knowledge is still found in every garden on every farm.

Every farmer who makes a living from the soil has rested in its shade and partaken of its fruit. The man who knows his soil, his seed, his stock and tools, who forsees and provides for the winter season, who guides his family aright, who takes his part in school, civic and community affairs is an educated man, and the farmer has all these things to do.

In late years, we have come to see that it is as possible to secure an education through agriculture as it is to secure it through Greek. The men and woman who graduate from our schools of agriculture are playing as large a part in the affairs of men in proportion to their number as are the men and women who graduate from classical courses.

There is something about agriculture and rural life that builds the foundation for great men and women. Perhaps it is the isolation of farming, where the farmer, alone in his field, with only the companionship of his team and herds and the winds and the soil, finds quiet and growth for his soul. Perhaps it is in the fact that he is a creator that his growth lies. Knowledge follows when the farmer, working with soil and sun and seed and rain, creates twenty bushels of wheat from one bushel sown, a hundred and twenty bushels of corn out of a bushel seeded, a hundred pounds of pork from 500 pounds of feed fed. Perhaps it is the struggle to win a living out of a stubborn soil and adverse conditions—his fight with weather, rainfall, drouths and frosts, or the pests of the field—that makes the farmer strong and educates him in the vicissitudes of life. Perhaps it is on account of distance from help and the fact that he must himself mend his broken plow or harness or bind up the wounded, or make his mower work that the farmer learns self-reliance and becomes an educated man. Perhaps it is through the hard-won returns earned only after days of toil and waiting, thus teaching thrift and patience, that the farmer grows into an educated man.

Whatever it is about farming that does it, we know that some way, somehow, farming has been the basic training for most of the great men of history. The thought that we want particularly to leave is that education is gleaned not so much out of books as out of things about which books are written. Books are sometimes a short cut to an education; but it is primarily out of things themselves, observation and doing, that knowledge

comes. And the farm furnishes one of the greatest of all laboratories for observation, study, and contact with things.

Farming, therefore, is an educational process, a great schooling. To know how to farm well is to be an educated man.

Inquire from any large assembly of successful business men their origin and, almost invariably, you find a majority of them have come from the farm. It is men trained largely in the school of the farm who are doing the bulk of the world's work today. We are increasingly coming to recognize that country life is a great basic educational teacher.

If the farm could talk, it would say, with Dr. L. H. Bailey—

"I teach
The earth and soil
To them that toil,
The hill and fen
To common men
That live right here;

"The plants that grow,
The winds that blow,
The streams that run
In rain and sun
Throughout the year;

"And then I lead,
Through wood and mead,
Through mold and sod,
Out unto God
With love and cheer.
I teach!"

And the farmer needs education, not only what the farm gives but much beyond that, too. There are big farm problems to be solved these days—problems of adjusting farm production to national needs, problems of efficient and orderly marketing, problems in the efficient use of money, farm credit, farm insurance, farm taxation, national policies as regards the tariff, immigration, farm organization, standard of farm living, chain and corporation farming, and a thousand other things of the country, all of which call for men on the farm with high-caliber minds if these problems are to have the right solution.

Congress has been struggling to find the solution to some of these problems for nearly ten years, and the way is still dark. Those matters are mentioned simply to call attention to the fact that there are big rural problems, calling for big men and women in rural life for their solution. The best brains of the farms need no longer go to the cities to find problems worthy of their best effort. It is more than probable that the increase and changes in farmers' organizations and farmer coöperation that will be brought about by the advent of the Federal Farm Board will result in the creation of positions of such honor, trust, and financial reward that will attract to and hold such men in rural districts.

Our agricultural colleges, which are the special institutions for learning and teaching matters pertaining to agriculture, the farm home, and rural

life have all given splendid training to the young men and women who attend them and have done much to make country life and agriculture what it is in America today.

Other basic institutions that serve rural life are the agricultural experiment stations, which are a part of the agricultural college in each State, and the United States Department of Agriculture. Both the experiment stations and the United States Department of Agriculture study the fundamental principles that underlie agriculture and agricultural processes and furnish basic knowledge for the industry.

It is a wise farm boy or girl today who fits himself or herself for the big changes that are coming rapidly into rural life. As we vision the matter, the farm of the future will average a little larger than in the past, because it is likely to be a tractor farm and a family can farm more acres with a tractor than with a team. The income of the farmer is likely to be a little higher than heretofore, because, through education and information, the farmer is going to coöperate in the next few years and learn how to adjust production to national needs and thus prevent the great surpluses that demoralize markets and ruin farmers. This larger farm, with its use of the tractor and corresponding machinery, will call for increased business ability, hence it will be the ablest boys and girls who will remain on the farm. With increased income will come more reading matter on the farm table, a higher standard of living, more leisure, more social entertainment, and the highest and most satisfying type of country life the world has ever known.

This is a good time for the farm young men and women to finish high school and go on to college. These institutions supplement the training of the farm and make it possible to take advantage of opportunities when they come. And it is the trained and prepared men and women who get farthest in the world these days, whether they live in the country or in the city.

We know, of course, that not all farm boys and girls are so situated that they can go to college and take a full four years' course. Many may not be able to go through high school, but they need not wholly despair. The agricultural colleges are offering short courses of two weeks', three months', six months' duration, and opening the doors to these courses wide enough so that every farm boy and farm girl or man or woman who so desires may enter. These short courses have dealt directly with problems of the farm and the farm home, and they have been planned especially to meet the needs and capacities of persons already engaged in farming. Through these agencies and other means, the rural population has been kept in touch with the latest developments and the best practices in the improvement of agriculture and farm life.

There are also new agencies coming into rural life in recent years, proving a powerful help and stimulus in rural education. These are the Smith-Hughes vocational schools and the coöperative Agricultural Extension Service. These fostered by the agricultural colleges, the United States Department of Agriculture, the rural counties, and the farmers, assist in developing a great educational enterprise for the improvement of agriculture and rural life.

The Smith-Hughes agricultural schools give systematic agricultural instruction to boys over 14 years of age, with six months' supervised home practice. These schools also conduct classes for adult farmers, with supervised practice on the farms for those who attend. The total number of all-day, evening, part-time, and day unit agricultural schools in 1928 was 5,754, and the number of agricultural pupils enrolled in these schools was nearly a million. This work is proving a powerful leaven in the upbuilding and promotion of rural life. With these schools in any rural community, no farmer or farm boy need go hungry for further education.

As the speaker is associated with the agricultural extension system, with its Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club Work, and the county agricultural and home demonstration agents, he will be expected to call your attention to the educational features of this great educational agency in rural life.

The key feature of the agricultural and home economics extension system in the United States is the appointment of 2,500 county agricultural agents and 1,200 county home demonstration agents and locating them in the rural counties of the country. They are men and women who grew up as farm boys and girls, went to the State agricultural colleges, and have now returned to the counties to work with the farmer and his family in increasing the farm income, building fine rural homes, and developing a rich social and intellectual country life. This is done, not so much by telling as by conference. It is a pooling of the wisdom already resident on the farm by the drawing out process. These agents recognize that teaching is best which stimulates thinking, draws out expression, awakens desire and stimulates action. That is why 50,000 farm men and farm women have been enlisted to help and are taking part in this work. That is why 1,500,000 men and women and farm boys and girls are putting on demonstrations on the farm and in the farm house to show the better way.

These county agents are the stimulus that brings farm men and women together in groups to consider their farm and community needs. When you begin to think through your farm and home business with practical men and women and technical counsel present, you are at the beginning of progress. When farm men or women, as a result of these conferences, put on demonstrations to show the better way in corn growing or pig feeding, child training, or household management, they grow a little. When they record the results, tabulate them, analyze them, and present them at the winter meeting or farmers' institute, they grow a little more. When they do these things, not only for themselves but in the interest of their neighbors as well, they are initiating the beginning of farm and community upbuilding that not only increases income but greatly adds to pride of community, satisfaction in living there, and makes for a greater cultural and educational life.

But it is not so much of adult extension work in rural districts that I would speak at this time as of the work with the young people, the farm boys and girls, 4-H club work. This club work has been spoken of as one of the soundest educational movements in America today, and there are 700,000 rural boys and girls enrolled in it this year and over 3,000,000 who have had the advantages of its training during the past 15 years.

Four-H club work is within the reach of every farm boy and girl in the United States. The price of membership in a 4-H club for the boy or girl enrolling is demonstrated under expert guidance some better way of growing corn, or bringing up a calf, or of canning vegetables, or of cutting out a dress, or of doing some other part of the world's work.

Each member keeps records, makes an exhibit, and tells the story of his work. They meet together in clubs, which they conduct in accordance with Parliamentary law. They have a program, which flows naturally out of what they are doing. They have a social period, sing songs, practice yells, and play games together. They thus learn in their youth how to coöperate and not be afraid of each other. And to know how to coöperate and to be willing to join your neighbors in coöperative enterprises are among the biggest needs in country life today.

Parents may well encourage their children to join the 4-H clubs in their neighborhood. Club work brings boys and girls in touch with the best things and latest ways in agriculture and home making. Through it they are brought in touch with technically-trained men and women, with the best and most successful farmers, with business men and bankers, with fair officials, and other outstanding men and women. Through it they get a broadened vision of rural life. They visit the county and regional club camps. They go by hundreds and thousands up to State college of agriculture to attend farm week or short course there. Their ambition is stirred. In youth, they become acquainted with the sources of agricultural information and at the very outset get the right outlook on life. Here, indeed, is a great, new, educational factor in rural life which is being increasingly recognized as the leaven that will, at no distant day, help lighten the whole loaf.

In closing this talk, we would leave in your minds these thoughts:

Farming is inherently an educational process. It builds an educational foundation suitable for any superstructure in any boy or girl.

Whether one chooses farming or some other calling as a life work, the training acquired on the farm during early years has much value in other lines of endeavor.

The Smith-Hughes vocational schools and the coöperative extension work in agriculture and home economics are great, new, educational forces in rural life that are helping rural people build the finest and most satisfying rural life the world has ever known.

THE SCHOOL'S RELATION TO THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM

H. L. ELLS
Iowa State College

We are compelled to face the facts that:

(1) The rural population will no doubt tend to decrease in number!

(2) Farming will cease to be a manner of living and become more and more an industry!

(3) More and more heavy and complicated machinery will be added to the hands of the few farmers to help them produce more than enough for the demand!

(4) More and more are we going to use scientific agriculture to take the fatalistic view out of agriculture and make ten blades of grass grow where none grew before!

(5) That the demand for agricultural products increases very slowly:

These facts make us look for a solution. I turn to the American public school as the only means of solving the problem. In the important task of taking an education to our rural boys and girls I look upon the consolidated school as the only true means of approach.

Rural America is facing tremendously difficult problems. The people must organize and school themselves in order to play the game of business and social life. They must learn to play it as effectively as the urban groups play it. It follows that what is needed is to place within reach of every country child the same kind of a school that the urban groups have placed at the disposal of their children. The farm group will be wise if in this crisis they do with their schools what the urban groups did with theirs.

1. They gathered the children of the urban communities into large enough school organizations to permit them to be grouped into classes of similar mental age and achievement for more efficient instruction. By such an organization they have been able to teach effectively.

2. Four years of efficient high school instruction was added to an already efficient elementary school. Into these years of high school work was introduced an enriched curriculum teeming with worthwhile character building material. These students were prepared for the game of life.

3. The urban groups recognized that able teachers are the most important factors in making a school. Teachers of good training and rich experience were gathered into the urban schools.

4. Professional supervision and administration were furnished for the urban schools. Instruction was under the most careful surveillance. Supervision and thorough administration placed the urban school on a sound educational basis.

5. Splendid modern buildings were provided the urban groups. In these educational palaces the urban children enjoyed every modern convenience.

6. The curriculum offered in the schools of the urban groups was carefully developed and enriched under the ablest leadership in the nation. It was designed to make the urban student an efficient citizen.

7. The urban group realized that schools adequate to meet their needs could not be maintained unless they were given adequate support. Increased support was given. Better schools brought better education; better education made possible better organization and greater efficiency.

Rural life is doomed if the farm group cannot provide schools adequate to the task. The farm group must needs do the same for their children that the urban groups have done for theirs. It follows then that what is needed in rural America today is to place within reach of every country child as

good a school as is provided for the city child. Why penalize the country child educationally, simply because he lives in the country?

The only type of rural school that will meet the needs of rural children and place them on a par with urban children is the consolidated school. This type of school will meet the situation because it puts into action the same principles that urban groups have put into their schools for many years. The ideal consolidated school will contain the following characteristics:

1. It will be under the direction of a trained superintendent.
2. A corps of teachers all thoroughly trained for the type of work they are to do.
3. It will have one grade per teacher in the elementary school.
4. A modern sanitary building equipped for thorough teaching.
5. A farm life school for every farm boy and girl with twelve years of work given to these boys and girls while on the farm.
6. A thoroughly well organized curriculum which has been enriched by using many valuable courses.

Such a school should be available to every country child. However, I hear someone say that the cost is too excessive. True, under the plan of taxation and the method of securing the money for schools in the open country in many states and especially in Iowa we are penalizing financially every farmer just because he happens to live in the country and we make him pay an added burden for the education of his children. He pays not only for the maintenance of a good school but in many states he must also pay for the transportation of his children as well. Again in many states and especially Iowa the farmer is confronted with a general property tax. The farmer is the holder of visible property and the payer of the greatest tax load. This tax that he pays is a local tax. The sources of income for schools, through taxation, divide themselves into three groups viz., State, county, and local taxes. Some of the states in the union have so arranged these different sources as to equalize the load, others have not seen fit to change an antiquated plan. I will refer to only a few of the states to show how they differ in this matter of dividing the expenses for schools between a state, county and local tax:

Name of State	*State Tax*	*County Tax*	*Local Tax*
Arizona	26 %	36.4%	37.6%
New Mexico	20.8%	79.2%	———
Florida	5.5%	63.6%	30.9%
California	23.0%	34.4%	42.6%
Alabama	46.3%	41.4%	11.8%
Iowa	4.4%	———	95.6%
Nebraska	.7%	———	99.3%
Ohio	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%
Texas	49.8%	———	50.2%
Delaware	94.4%	———	5.6%

Now it is perfectly evident that some of these states are placing a very heavy burden upon the local taxpayer. This is especially true of Iowa and Nebraska. Some better taxing method and a more nearly equalized taxing plan must be devised before we can assure every rural child in America an equal opportunity with his urban cousin. Is it not true that rural and urban citizens alike should be interested in the education of both groups of children? Is it not true that our great America ought to be interested in furnishing an equal chance for educational advantages to every last child be he white, black, urban or rural? The answer can only be in the affirmative, simply because as shown above, these youths are not staying where they are raised, but they are going to the city and to other locations. In these new locations they will use for the building up the cities the education they received in the country or small town. That is to say the country will continue to be the reservoir from which the urban centers receive future leaders. If this be true ought not a nation-wide method of taxation help carry a part of a just burden? Schools do not exist for a mere fancy or for the amusement of the public. They exist to train future leaders for all places in our complex American life. Then we ought to all help pay for such a service.

Our success in America in past years has been due largely to our democratic school system. However, now our schools must change to meet the conditions being imposed upon us in rural America.

Why can we not view this matter of education then in a much larger and more comprehensive manner? Why can we not view education in the same way we have come to view the matter of building roads? Education is certainly as important. Why not get behind a nation-wide program of school building and support, partially standardized, administered and supported by the Federal Government. Such a movement must not remove local responsibility but such a movement would tend to equalize the cost and bring to pass educational standards never before realized in America.

My final answer to our rural problems and conditions be they ever so great is: turn an educated, well trained, population into any social, economic or technical field under any condition and they will make rapid strides toward solving any problem confronting them.

DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

C. A. FULMER
Director of Vocational Education, Nebraska Department of Education

The field of vocational education is very broad. This discussion must be limited to the types of vocational education included in the Federal Vocational Act (Smith-Hughes) and then with special emphasis upon those which are closely related to rural life.

This Act (Smith-Hughes), passed in 1917, provides for a scheme of coöperation between the Federal Government and the various states for the promotion of vocational education of secondary grade under public super-

vision and control designed to train persons for useful employment in agriculture, trade and industry, home economics and commerce.

When that law was enacted (1917) only eight states were attempting such vocational education with an enrollment of 25,000 students in all classes. The law has been in operation only eleven years and so rapid has been the growth of the program that now (1928) all forty-eight states are taking advantage of its provisions and the student body has increased from 25,000 to 999,031 or nearly 4,000 per cent.

The development of vocational education throughout the country is shown by the large total of $25,715,760.00 Federal, State and local funds expended for its support during the year ending June 30, 1928.

A description of the character and scope of the work in all of the states of the Middle West will not be undertaken here. Nebraska will be used as a type state. Some states may have made greater and some others less progress. We quote from the Nebraska State Director's annual report for the year ending June 30, 1928.

During the year 11,124 men, women, boys and girls regularly enrolled in classes received systematic instruction in agriculture, trade and industrial and home economics education. The courses covered a wide range of subjects suited to the needs of the students.

The work was done in three kinds of classes; evening, part-time and all-day, as follows:

I. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

(a) Evening Agricultural Classes

We are having constant changes in agriculture due to developments in machinery, discovery of new facts and the consumer's demands and standards of living. Progress in the field will depend upon the rapidity with which the farmer changes his thinking and operations to meet these new conditions. His adjustments will be in proportion to his knowledge of facts and ideals.

Holding evening classes in agriculture for the adult farmer is one of the best means of bringing this new subject matter to the farmer. The Federal Smith-Hughes Act provides for systematic instruction for those persons who have entered, as well as those who are preparing to enter the farming vocation. Courses were offered in such subjects as livestock production, feeding, sheep, poultry, swine, crops and soils, and dairying. Enrollment: 422 men, 47 women.

(b) Part-Time Agricultural Schools

Instruction in agriculture and related subjects for farm boys between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one who are not regularly enrolled in school was conducted in a few places. This is a new program and needs thoughtful consideration by those persons who are interested in the out-of-school group of farm boys. Usually they are boys who have felt that the regular high school course did not meet their needs. Enrollment: 41 boys.

(c) All-Day Agricultural Departments

Vocational agriculture courses in high schools for boys who are preparing for the farming vocation, are increasing in popularity. This was

evidenced by the fact that there was the greatest enrollment, on the average, per department in the history of the work. Five new departments were installed when school opened. Two additional schools were approved later and given some aid. Seven new schools were added to the list for approval for the year 1929-1930. Requests are already being made for departments for 1930-1931.

Boards of education which are having building programs can well afford to consider requirements for vocational agriculture departments, including a shop, if they are anticipating such a department in the future.

The courses are two or more years in length and require about half of each school day. Livestock production, soils and crops, farm shop work, marketing, farm management, farm accounting, rural economics, motors, etc., are taught. Each student has a farm project of his own that is a highly important part of the course. Enrollment: 1,741 farm boys. Altogether 2,251 men and boys and 47 women were receiving systematic instruction in agriculture.

A study in the state shows that fully eighty per cent (80%) of the boys who have taken the work during the past eleven years have remained on the farm.

II. HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION

(a) Evening Classes in Home Making

A vocational homemaking department has not attained its maximum service in a community unless it extends its service to the homemakers as well as to the students in the high school. It is not necessary however that a day school program be maintained in order to have homemaking classes organized for homemakers.

The majority of the classes meet in the afternoon. Many of them in the morning. Only a few meet at night. They are organized from six to ten lessons in any phase of homemaking where a sufficient number of students desire the work and a teacher can be secured.

Courses: Home management, food preparation, clothing, nutrition, child care, mother training, adolescence, home beautification, child guidance, sewing, parent education, etc.

Enrollment: 74 men, 2,729 women.

(b) Part-Time Home Economics Schools

Part-time schools for rural girls may be organized to give homemaking training to the girls who must remain at home to help with farm and house work.

Schools which are equipped to teach Home Economics can offer part-time work to girls in their own district and to tuition students at a small expense. A special teacher is employed to conduct the work. A course may be from six weeks to four months in length.

A beginning was made in this type of education and in the one school eight girls were enrolled.

(c) All-Day Home Economics Schools

Home Economics training is an essential part of the general education of every girl. Courses in the day schools are at least two years in length.

They are planned to give the girls training in the homemaking responsibilities they should be carrying at present, and to lay a foundation for a continued development in homemaking. Each year's work includes units in social and family relationships; food preparation on the meal basis; clothing selection, construction and care; child care and development and management. Home projects are a part of each year's work.

In addition to units in home economics, the course includes instruction in science related to home problems, art applied to clothing, and house furnishings and decorating problems and physiology.

Enrollment: 1,988 girls.

Gradually we are coming to think that no school system can minister effectively to the needs of a changing civilization until it affords educational opportunities to all "who need them, want them and will profit by them" without regard to age. One must not only be prepared to enter upon a life work but his enlarging and developing abilities must enable him to continue in it.

This then, briefly, describes the program of vocational education in the Middle West. Its value to society is incalculable.

INTRODUCING A NEW COURSE OF STUDY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

JESSIE PARKER

The Iowa course of Study for Elementary Schools. It is the work of 150 of the best educators of the state, who under the leadership of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, donated their service to make this course possible—even paying their own expenses to committee meetings.

Many of the young and inexperienced teachers did not know how to select the important things, the ones which were to be emphasized—so they were slaves to textbooks, textbooks often so antiquated as to be almost useless.

This failure to emphasize essentials spread our teaching over so wide a territory that the soil was thin; the seed planted could not possibly take root and grow so pupils reached the 8th grade poorly provided with knowledge of the common branches.

This course, therefore, sets forth the minimum essentials or outcomes to be achieved in all the common branches, subjects and grades. Then for those students above average intelligence are suggestions for broadening the course. It suggests at least one short safe way to achieve minimum outcomes. It points out a number of pitfalls, detours and rough places to be avoided, and a way to pass by or bridge them.

The biggest hindrance to good work in rural schools aside from the inexperienced and poorly trained teacher, has been the multiplicity of classes and the short class period resulting.

Under the new course of study the time is differently distributed by a weekly teaching program. This is not a radical departure. The good

teachers have always used some of this method, though perhaps not under the same name. The child learns by directed study. Therefore each recitation period is followed by a period of directed study. The teacher is given time for supervision of this seat work, so she may give help at the moment when it is needed.

This arrangement is based on a scientific study "The California Curriculum Study," so that the time is divided fairly among the various grades and classes. The younger pupils who cannot study independently are given recitation periods in every quarter day as under the old plan.

Dr. E. L. Thorndike says: "The attitude or set of the mind determines largely the response that the mind will make to a given stimulance and whether or not that response will be satisfying." Under the new weekly teaching program all history classes come in the same part of the day—all arithmetic classes in another, so when the school begins thinking on a subject it may continue to the end of that day's quota.

Through our county institutes and study centers teachers have made a definite study of the new course. Where it is properly carried out most favorable reports are received. Neighboring states have purchased many copies and the increasing demands have already made a third edition necessary. As teachers become more familiar with it still better results will undoubtedly be secured.

It is a flexible course suited to use with any textbook, and as experience shows the need revision can be made. Pupils who have been questioned say they like it. They like the definiteness of the outcome to be achieved. They like the longer class periods and the longer study period afforded by the new weekly teaching program.

We feel that the publication of this course is a milestone of progress, educationally speaking, one worthy of fine memorial made manifest not in marble but in increasing efficiency in the lives of the boys and girls of Iowa.

THE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

MRS. B. C. HOPKINS

A study of the community should be made by a committee to determine the greatest need of that community, and determine upon the task to be undertaken. Programs which are built around this need will be necessary before the whole group is informed and ready to take action.

Right here is demonstrated the value of state and national membership for Parent-Teacher Associations because through such membership program helps are available. It is because there is a certain amount of expense incurred in providing this service that the nominal dues of 15c per member is necessary.

If educational opportunity is to be equalized for all children there are three steps which may be taken immediately by every community. These are first, a clean schoolhouse; second, adequate reading material and third, proper instruction material. There is no group more able to bring this about than a well organized Parent-Teacher Association.

Recreation is one of the fields in which the Parent-Teacher Association should be most active. If the farm boy and girl is to be encouraged to remain on the farm, opportunity for recreation must be provided.

Especially is this true in the summer time and such activities as a community picnic, a community baseball team, athletic contests with neighboring communities, a Sunday evening community singing either in the woods or on the lake shore, if near a lake should be promoted.

A very vital field of activity for Parent-Teacher Associations is the field of creating the right attitude toward the needs of the school and certain standards vital to education.

As a sample of what may constitute a good program along this line I would like to recommend four programs and the questions which form the basis for the discussion which should be a vital part of each program.

1. An equal educational opportunity for all.
    a. How many school days does your community offer its children?
    b. How many children between 7 and 14 in your community not attending school?
    c. What is a state equalization fund? What is best basis for distribution?
    d. What basis is used in your state?
    e. How can art, music and literature influence the life of a child?
    f. How should changes in the curriculum be regarded by laymen?
    g. How should the nation contribute towards providing an equal educational opportunity for all?

2. Can the nation afford to educate its children?
    a. What portion of the nation's income and wealth are devoted to schools and their upkeep?
    b. How do these figures compare with saving account deposits and life insurance investments?
    c. How does our expenditure compare with similar expenditures in other countries?
    d. How may increased school costs be justified?

3. Building and equipment.
    a. What are important points to be considered in the selection of school cites?
    b. What attention should be paid to ventilation, lighting, heating, blackboards, toilets?
    c. Who selects and purchases the equipment for your school?
    d. What type of picture should be placed in schoolhouse?

4. The teacher.
    a. What should communities offer to secure and retain the best teachers?
    b. What benefits from well paid teachers?
    c. What protection does your community offer the child against teachers grown old in the services?

d. What provision has your community made for retaining teachers over a reasonable length of time?
e. What is the average length of service of teachers in rural schools?
f. Why do teachers change so often?
g. How is the parent responsible for keeping teachers in the community?
h. What advantages do teachers derive from membership in professional group?

TASKS FOR LOCAL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

MISS ANNA JOHNSON
Fort Dodge, Iowa

Inasmuch as this discussion has been placed on the program for the rural school section it is presupposed that the tasks discussed will be those especially pertinent to the P. T. A's. of the one-, two- or three-room rural schools whose boundaries are wholly outside the limits of city, town or consolidated corporations.

The great number of this type of school in existence in our country today—some 150,000 in all—make the tasks and duties of the rural Parent-Teacher Associations as many and varied as are the needs of each individual school in the group. That these schools have needs is evident when one considers that Iowa with 10,000 rural schools had but 2,200 or less than 23% that could qualify as standard during the last school year.

The aim of the present Parent-Teacher Association is to work at all times in harmonious coöperation with the officers, teachers and other school people for the welfare of the child. At no time does the organization seek to usurp the powers or intrude upon the authority of those who by law and selection have been placed in trust at the head of our school systems or selected as teachers in the school.

It would seem that the first task for our Parent-Teacher Association to assume would be to get acquainted with the teacher of the local school at the very beginning of the school year. This may take the form of a reception given some evening of the first week of school when the parents and patrons of the district meet and pledge their allegiance to the teacher and the school thus giving her the assurance that in all that is fair and square to the children she will find in the community loyal support.

Unless one has been a teacher and experienced just such a procedure one cannot appreciate how this expression of loyalty and coöperation can transform a timid, inexperienced little teacher into a veritable champion embued with self-confidence and determination to make good.

Confidence between teacher and patron having been established, the next step will take them into the realms of the course of study and program procedure. Too few parents know anything of the work the schools of today are trying to do and the methods employed in doing them. To coöperate intelligently a full knowledge of the workings of the school is

one of the high essentials if the Parent-Teacher Association is to function in a worth while way.

Then the work begins in earnest. A list of requirements for standardization is secured and the diagnosis begins. The study first centers about the school plant—the building. Is it in such a condition that pupils and teacher can come together from day to day and work under circumstances conducive to best results? Is it clean, attractive and comfortable? What of the lighting and heating? Are the windows adequate and properly placed? Is there a heating plant that heats without smoke and gas? Are there single seats of proper size and number? Can the shades, if any, be drawn to accommodate the adjustment for proper light? Are there maps and globes for the study of history and geography? Talking machines or piano for the opening exercises, the penmanship periods or the physical training classes? A library meeting the needs for reference work and supplementary reading material? Pictures on the wall calling to the beautiful in the soul of the child to come out and meet and mingle with the beautiful in art and be introduced to the beautiful in nature and in life? Does the interior of the schoolhouse challenge the child's best nature to respond to the call for respect for himself and for the rights and property of others? Then to the outside—to the acre called the playground. Is it equipped in such a way that the children have facilities for good wholesome exercise and play while they are making those finer social contacts that shall mean so much in their after life? Is there shade where little children as well as older ones may gather on hot days and exchange their childish ideas? Have the grounds been made beautiful that beauty may unconsciously weave itself into the woof of their being? These and many more are the questions to be answered and the answer to them will involve the spending of money, yes, of much money.

Now the answer to the unexpressed question. No, the members of the Parent-Teacher Association should not be required to spend of their personal funds for these things because equipment of schoolhouses and school grounds as well as the care of schoolhouse and grounds are to be supported by money derived from taxation. The laws of our state provide for this but where is the state law that determines when these things have been done? Where is the law that specifies what constitutes a proper school building and proper equipment and then makes it mandatory that they be provided?

Too often we criticise school boards for the shabby condition of school buildings, grounds and equipment as well as the lack of the latter. Let us not forget that these, as said before, cost money. The expenditure of money for these things means an increase in taxes and the cry of "high taxes" is the loudest and most distressing cry in our land today. The school director serves without pay. His task is too often a thankless one. He is not anxious to add enemies to his other cares so does the least that can be done and "get by" without making any disturbance over increased taxes.

Here one of the finest opportunities for Parent-Teacher Association service presents itself. All the things lacking after the diagnosis need not

be bought. Especially is this true of playground equipment. Swings, teeters, sandboxes, even slides are among the things the men can make while the women study the indoor plans for decorating, make the curtains, arrange for hot lunches and plan for special day affairs.

Why do people express themselves so forcibly when taxes are increased? Mostly because they do not understand what the money is spent for and the lasting value of the investment. People in general do not object to paying the price when they realize that the commodity justifies the cost. Members of Parent-Teacher Associations are usually taxpayers. They understand the needs of the school and because of this understanding will stand back of the directors, will admonish them to purchase, even if the tax receipts will be written in larger figures the next tax paying date.

But even taxes will not get all of the money at the time when it is most desired. This opens the way for community gatherings such as home talent plays, concerts, socials and even bake sales where a small charge is asked for admission or where sales are made for reasonable amounts. Usually the association meets every month or six weeks. A program is rendered at each meeting after which light lunches are served at a very nominal cost.

The rural folk have since the advent of the automobile come to getting much of their amusement and recreation in the city. They attend the movie, the lyceum course or the chautauqua where they are entertained without participating in the form of entertainment.

When home talent programs are rendered the young and old participate. They enjoy the associations of one another and are often surprised at what they are able to accomplish. In this way leaders are brought forward, talents discovered and friendships formed that otherwise would have been unknown.

PROGRAM OF A COUNTY SCHOOLMASTERS' CLUB

A. E. JEWETT
County Superintendent, Black Hawk County, Iowa

The Black Hawk County Superintendents Club was organized in 1919 by the late Macy Campbell, head of the Department of Rural Education, Iowa State Teachers College. It first comprised the four consolidated schools which were at that time affiliated with the Teachers College for observation and practice teaching. It had, and still has for its object a greater improvement in rural school-teaching and a better and closer relationship among the men teachers of the county.

The club has just naturally grown until at the present time it comprises the four original consolidated schools and four others having territory lying within Black Hawk County but whose jurisdiction as far as school authority goes is within the boundaries of near-by counties. It is interesting to note that in one instance the school board of a certain district asked that their men teachers, and particularly their superintendent be included as members of the club. In addition to all the superintendents of these

schools we now include all the men teachers—Smith-Hughes, Physical Training, Agriculture, Science, etc.—three from the Rural Education Department and three from the Extension Division of the State Teachers College. As no member misses a meeting if he can possibly prevent it, our average attendance is about twenty-five.

During the present year we have changed with the times and when we address the group we must say "fellows and girls" as we now have one lady member who is superintendent of a consolidated school and one lady member from the Rural Department. In order that the name may not be a misnomer—"Schoolmasters' Club"—, but primarily to do honor to its founder, the club at its last meeting voted to change its name to "The Macy Campbell Club" and the October meeting is to be entirely in memory of that great man who did so much for rural education, not alone in Iowa, but throughout the whole country.

We meet the third Monday evening of each month, having dinner together and then adjourning to the county superintendent's office where the program is held. A program committee arranges the program for the year using very largely its own members. The subjects are topics of everyday school room problems, presented by a leader and discussed by all members. Once in a while outside talent is used but these visitors are generally school people.

One year's program was given entirely on the subject of *Child Accounting*. Our last year's problems dealt largely with the difficulties that occur in consolidated schools.

The last meeting of the year is always a picnic-golf contest, etc., and is a large family affair.

The club also sponsors and controls all the extra curricula activities and this work is confined entirely to seventh, eighth and ninth grade pupils. Within this junior high group we conduct our own declamatory contests—all member schools being divided into three districts, three teachers looking after the interests and selecting winners from each section, all meeting in a final contest.

A junior basketball tournament and a junior baseball tournament is conducted each winter and spring.

In addition to this we have held spelling and ciphering contests for grades four to eight.

Last year at the conference of consolidated and normal training high schools held at the State Teachers' College, this club sponsored and arranged the entire evening program which consisted of a large chorus of children's voices, glee clubs and orchestras from the rural and consolidated schools of the county.

In addition to the work of the regular club programs, all the members enjoy meeting with others doing the same type of work, exchange ideas, arrange athletic and other contests and have a very good time socially.

From the standpoint of a county superintendent, I know of no other organization within the county which is of such great help to me as this schoolmasters' club, because it offers a contact which could be maintained in no other way and keeps me in direct touch with all the happenings of each school.

DIRECTING VOCATIONAL TRAINING

W. H. Lancelot
Iowa State College

I suspect that vocational education is a thing that sounds strange and unattractive to many here. I think you should know that two of its chief parts are education in agriculture and education for homemaking. These two, agriculture and homemaking, are likewise very important parts of home life. It is through its work in vocational education that our school system touches most vitally the rural life of the land. Not many schools offer such work and it follows that the school system of our nation is not doing as much as it should to help in the solution of the perplexing and momentous rural problems of which you have been hearing so much here.

You are interested in the problems of country life and eager to have a part in solving them. You are here in order that you may see and understand them better; and I doubt not your eyes are already looking forward to the day when your chance may come to help in whatsoever ways you can.

I invite you to take thought of the widening field of rural education. It matters not, I think, whether you elect to work in it or not. Alongside the other thought which you are gathering from this conference, I believe these should be placed.

The problems of rural life, numerous and baffling as they are, may be solved by education and probably by it alone. It is the great determinant of the future of human society in all its aspects. A great statesman has said, "What you would have a nation to become, that teach its children." This applies as truly to our problem of conserving American rural life as to any other. Other means and measures may fail, just as they have so far failed. Yet a well-considered educational program would make American country life stable and secure just as such a program has made stable and secure that of less-favored Denmark.

Of course our school system is actually doing little in the way of solving the vexing problem, and this notwithstanding it could solve it more easily than can that of any other nation, since ours is the only country in which free high schools are scattered everywhere. The reason for the failure of our schools to play the part they should is that it has not been required of them. They were established not to minister to rural children but to those who live in the towns and cities. Only recently has the enrollment of country boys and girls become really large. Yet it is large now; and if proper pressure were applied, we should see our high school going about the business of training for rural life with a zeal that could hardly fail to bring about a genuine renaissance of country life in America.

I shall not go into details with respect to the nature of the education that would accomplish this result. You young people who have seen education performing its good work in yourselves and others about you can hardly doubt its power. This is sufficient, though I hope you entertain no doubts that it may be directed to whatsoever ends are desired or that by

such direction it could be made to lay its magic spell upon the great problem with which this week's conference is grappling. It remains for you to understand that the stage is really set for true rural education, by which I mean education adapted to the actual needs of rural people, to be given its rightful place in the high schools of our land. Neither does this imply that rural young people should be separated from others and given an entirely different kind of training.

I have said these things because I believe they are of concern to you who are young and interested in the problems of country life. It does not matter what your relationships to these problems may be in the future. If you are to be coworkers together for rural improvement, the way of education is one upon which you may well fix your thoughts, giving to it far more attention than it has so far received in America. If on the other hand you should elect to enter the field of rural education, it would become your duty actually to bring to pass, as far as you were able, the thing of which I have spoken.

On the chance that some here may be contemplating entering this field, I shall say that at present it is already fairly good from the standpoints of emoluments and professional opportunity. However, as I stated before it is growing better; and when the day comes, as it surely must come, that our high schools accept their responsibility for training for rural life, it will offer many allurements to persons interested in the farm boys and girls of our land.

At the beginning, I said a little about the administration of vocational education. As I close, I shall say a little more. The greatest of all purposes of those who are administering this type of education is to minister to the needs and interests of country life. Pioneers in the most important educational movements of recent years, they are, I am sorry to say, in most cases, playing lone hands. They need, and are fully entitled to, the aid and support of rural workers everywhere.

URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS

POSSIBILITIES IN URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS AS SEEN BY A FARM WOMAN

Mrs. Clarence Decatur
Grinnell, Iowa

Before we are ready for "possibilities," there must be "needs" for coöperation. The first need is that we understand each other and the aims for which the various groups are working. When the urban folks, through their organizations, whether it be Federated Women's Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, or what not, are trying to put on some project, it is well for urban folks to get in touch with rural organizations and explain what they are trying to do. And rural organizations must put themselves in an attentive attitude. It is the same way, when the Farm Bureau is putting on a project, particularly a home and community project. Part of this may be done through publicity in newspapers. Here we can tell what we are trying to do, how we are doing it and the results hoped for.

Urban and rural groups, interchanging programs and speakers, will surely learn the different standards of living in each group and will learn that we are all striving for the same. The social part of such gatherings cannot help but bring out this difference. For instance, the ordinances of any urban group of any size compel the inhabitants of that group to use all precautions to promote sanitary conditions in that community. Running water in their homes and the conveniences that go with it are some of the precautions that are making housekeeping and homemaking a much easier task for the urban woman than for the woman on the farm and too few farm homes have running water. Electricity for light and power has long been the dream of the farm woman, while, at present, it is a reality for the urban woman only. These must be included in our standards of living in both urban and rural life, before we can have like standards of living.

The social developments must not be overlooked. The Farm Bureau is playing an important part along this line. In our township meetings and training schools, we come in contact with folks from all over our own township and several other townships as well. While the educational features are most prominent, the social features are never neglected. It is an easy matter to get rural folks to mix but it is somewhat difficult getting urban and rural folks to mix. One subject in common helps this. Homemaking, better home practices, community betterment, are a few of the subjects in which both urban and rural folks are interested. Better health, better

health habits and good morals in our children are wonderful subjects on which to work together because, as sure as the world moves, some of these town boys are going to marry our farm girls and vice versa. Consequently both town and country must be made a safe and sane place in which to live. And one must be just as safe and sane as the other. Our 4-H clubs are filling this niche with rural youth. They are learning the value of group movements. Four-H club work teaches energy, self-reliance and the value of coöperation.

As I look at it, all Iowa is "one common ground." There is nothing definite in the contour of the landscape to designate where the city ends and the country begins, or if you come from the other direction, you cannot tell where the line that separates the country from the town is. (There may be a sign there but it is not a part of the landscape. It is a man-made sign put there for the purpose of disseminating information.)

Therefore, the needs as I see them are: understanding, the same standards of living and the desire to mix and work with other folks and groups. When we have come this far, we are ready for "possibilities."

It seems to me that there are many possibilities for coöperation. You may have received this idea from what I have already said. If you have, I have not talked in vain. Practice is always better than preaching, so I will not try to tell about things that might be done to advance urban-rural coöperation but will tell you about several things that have already been done.

Publicity is and has always been the greatest factor for disseminating knowledge and creating interest. Our publicity on home project work through the Farm Bureau has sold project work to the women in town. And last year the Grinnell Woman's Club, a Federated club, used our home-furnishing project as their main subject for the year's work. The local leaders in the Farm Bureau were consulted and they consented to give the lessons to the town women just as they gave them in their own communities. Ten Farm Bureau women gave fifteen lessons. The interest was exceptionally good and the results were good. In fact, better than we expected. The result of the coöperation was this: The town women had a much better and clearer idea of Farm Bureau and home project work than they had ever had before because we make it our business to sell Farm Bureau as well as home project work at each meeting, whether in town or in the country. They learned what our problems are and how the women are working with the men in the Farm Bureau to build a better and more profitable agriculture, not only through production on the farms but also by making our homes more comfortable and attractive and our communities better places in which to live.

Through their business meetings, we learned that folks in town are real and have real problems and also that we were able to help them solve some of them. We have been using some of their members on our township Farm Bureau programs. One woman has given us three lessons on parliamentary law. Another woman has talked to us on P. T. A. work and school problems. One man has given two very helpful talks on law enforcement, etc.

You see this in working both ways. Both this year and last year we have offered the town women a place in our training schools.

The Federated clubs of Iowa are giving Farm Bureau women a place on their county and district programs for the purpose of telling them what rural women are doing.

The Kiwanis club at Grinnell at their own suggestion have been, for the past two years, sponsoring a short course for our 4-H boys and girls. Our boys and girls had no place to show the results of their year's work and consequently were going without that final contest that tries the mettle of the youth of today and proves their worth to themselves and their communities. The Kiwanians assumed this responsibility and with the help of the Farm Bureau members have done creditably. This is truly coöperation between urban and rural folks. This same Kiwanis Club has one agricultural program each year to which the various farm groups are invited and take part in the program.

LOCAL PROBLEMS IN URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS

L. J. MURPHY

The rapid transformation of Iowa communities from rural conditions to one in which the city has assumed a larger and ever larger place has surprised a great many of us, and has made us aware of the tremendous problems of urban-rural relations thus thrust upon us. While the census of 1910 showed the people of Iowa to reside in almost equal numbers in the country and in incorporated towns, the census of 1925 gives a total almost half again as large for the urban population. Our few major cities have increased by leaps and bounds, our small communities have practically stood still and our rural population has gradually lessened.

The economic and social lure of the city has attracted away from the farm thousands of our boys and girls. They have found there shorter working hours, increased wages, and recreational opportunities which they did not have in the rural communities. This depletion of our country districts presents an accepted and serious situation. As might be expected the change from rural to urban life has brought its accompaniment of broken health, nervous disorders, disease, poverty and the hectic pursuit of pleasure.

Fortunately our larger cities in which these effects are most noticeable, are few in number. Only 16 Iowa cities have populations over 15,000, while 813 incorporated towns have populations of 2,000 or less. That this large number of small communities have distinct advantages and possibilities we are becoming aware.

A new feeling of interdependence and fellowship is growing between country and town. The community is being recognized as the unit instead of the platted town. And this community is made up, not of any particular class or group, but of all the various urban and rural interests, farms, stores, shops, industries, homes and people, bound together by

common ties such as the press and the telephone, and common facilities for trade, banking, education, recreation, worship and health.

Getting down to practical cases, what are some of these specific local community problems, and what can we do towards finding a solution?

TRADE FACILITIES

A survey of a number of rural communities has brought to view the increasing participation of the farmer in both the business and social life of the community. It is still apparent, however, that the merchant and the farmer have not yet arrived at that common ground of understanding which is so mutually desirable to both. The farmer still shows preference for the smaller, less fashionable stores, and the grocers on the edges of the city. While the larger city store undoubtedly offers a greater variety of goods and higher standards, the crux of the matter is probably that the farmer feels "at home" in the smaller centers and does not in the city.

Without question the small city with its higher grade institutions offers the country resident a fuller opportunity for advancing their standards of living and widening social contacts than is offered by the small town. It therefore behooves the citizenry to make the city more "homelike" to and for the farmer.

Evidences of this trend are everywhere in evidence. Chambers of Commerce have of late made quite an effort to get in farmer members. They have often taken them in wholesale lots at reduced rates. While the effort has been well meaning, the efforts have seldom shown any notable results. There has been too little understanding of the human equations involved. It has still remained a city organization interested in the city man's problems.

The readiness of the farmer to adopt certain modern farm implements and hardware, as well as certain standard grocery articles is evidence that he wants new and better methods and articles where they are properly presented. Perhaps it is in the service given with the sale, good advertising and salesmanship, or an understanding of farm psychology. Whatever the cause may be it behooves the business man to follow this example and help to establish better understanding and a closer relationship between farmer and townsman.

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

Along this line it is appropriate to ask the average Iowa town what it is doing to make the farmer's visit pleasant and profitable? What has it done to contribute toward his comfort and convenience? Not much in most cases. Often even less for the farmer's wife and children.

There has been a great change of late in this respect and yet even today many towns do not have the simplest provisions for the comfort of their visitors. The rest rooms provided by many of our towns are hardly worthy of the name, and are such that no country woman would think of resting there if she could find any other place to go. And yet there has been definite progress, and at least some attention given to the comfort of the folks who have much to do with the prosperity of the town.

One naturally thinks of the public library as a place where a tired woman or boy might spend an unoccupied half-hour. Yet, many towns either have no library or one in which no weary person from the country would venture on so slight a pretext. A few of our large department stores have lighted the way in providing a resting place where their customers may lounge with comfort and freedom. A bank or two have followed suit.

PARKING

When the farmer and his family came to town with team and wagon they generally found ample sheds and hitch racks where the horses could be tied. The towns recognized the need for this facility and provided it. Strangely, however, a great many of these same towns have made little or no provision for parking the farmer's car. In addition the farmer encounters a multitude of driving and parking regulations and restrictions. Complaints are frequent of discourteous traffic officers who seem to seek a chance to show their authority rather than the opportunity to be of service. Such is often the only official contact which the visitor has with the city, and it is an opportunity either for favorable or undesirable publicity which cannot be overlooked.

The country visitors should be assured of a good place to park their cars when they come to town; they should have a pleasant place to rest or eat their lunch; they should be able to feel that the city officials are their friends; they should in short expect a friendly welcome from the town, whether they are spending money or not.

EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Fortunately, the rapid development of transportation is removing many of the educational handicaps which have hindered children in the country. Our improved road systems and the automobile now enable them to attend schools which, through Smith-Hughes aid, are rapidly approaching the standards of the city schools.

RECREATION

A problem of primary importance and yet one whose solution is so often left to chance and the commercial agencies of a town is that of recreation. Where do the boys in your community spend their leisure time? Is it in the pool hall or the railroad station? How often do we see the boys of from perhaps 15 to 20 drift into the town's filthiest pool hall to loaf of an evening? Just killing time there because they have nowhere better to go and nothing else to do. They find it interesting to meet there and listen to dirty stories by some of the tougher of the crowd and smutty allusions to the conduct of town characters. At least it is more interesting than anything else they have to do. This seemed to be the meeting place, the training school which the community has provided for them—at least it has shown them no other. And the tougher of the rowdy element are acting as the instructors in this class in conduct and citizenship. Without doubt, these rowdies with the foul minds and tongues are the makers of many a town's future.

We give a good deal of thought to the saving of individual souls. How much time and thought do we give toward saving this tremendous waste of young life that goes on nightly about our pool halls and depots?

There is a job waiting there in many a town for some organization which will be worth vastly more than dozens of advertising and booster campaigns.

In facing this problem may we not ask ourselves soberly, "Where do our boys spend their leisure time?" If it isn't the pool hall, do they take the flivver and scoot miles and miles away from home? What would the young people like to do if they had the right facilities?

Then you may want to present the facts which would be revealed in a survey of this kind to your own organization, to the women's clubs, to other civic organizations, to leaders of church and school. When it is clear just what your town really offers and what it lacks, you may want to consider what kind of facilities you ought to establish to serve all the people, old and young, with recreational opportunities.

It will doubtless require small playgrounds for the little children; larger athletic fields for the older ones, a swimming pool; opportunities for winter sports, and community center activities. Such a program will take facilities and cost money. It will, and this is most important of all, require competent and clean-cut leadership—leadership with training, personality and character back of it.

In the belief of Dr. John A. Lapp, of Chicago, of the National Catholic Welfare Council, juvenile delinquency could be cut 75% and health and good citizenship could be vastly improved in any community which would provide itself with the right kind of recreation facilities and leadership.

"Recreation teaches honesty," he says. "True sport is an honest affair and youth who are trained in the ideals of sport ought to be better citizens and understand civic rights and duties."

"The fact that games, athletics and outdoor life build muscles and keep the body fit is well recognized. Their benefit to the mind and spirit, the public has yet to appreciate. Energy, mentality, earning power, mortality and citizenship in both adults and children are immensely stimulated by recreation. If it is only in the field of health, social justice demands that every community should have organized recreation."

COMMUNITY IDEALS

Perhaps one of the greatest things that any of us can give our communities is an ideal of what the town and country comprising it, can and should be. Each town will, and rightly should, have a different ideal which it wishes to attain. A good many of our towns have wished for only one thing—to be large cities. They have spent their thought and their effort in acquiring mere bigness. Some few towns will grow to be large cities; many others will not.

If some Iowa towns have failed perhaps it has been in this failure to understand themselves, to realize that the country town is not a mere embryo city, but that it has an individuality of its own, far different.

For the small city and the country town to come into its own a new ideal must come to the fore. It must cease aspiring to be a metropolis.

instead of deploring the cornfields at its threshold, it must come to welcome them as among its greatest assets. Its citizens must come to dream of the town that should be and labor to that end. It is certainly more important that your town and my town be clean and beautiful and well governed than that it be big. We must bring to our people a new appreciation of the value of homelikeness and wholesome surroundings.

THE DES MOINES TRADE AREA

JOHN D. ADAMS
The Des Moines Industrial Committee

In attempting a subject of this nature, a civic organization man is naturally inclined to take advantage of the opportunity and tell the merits of his city; however, I do not propose to tell you what Des Moines means to the territory around it but rather do I intend to say a few words concerning what the territory means to Des Moines.

At the outset, we must bear in mind that Iowa's progress is Des Moines' progress. Our city cannot move ahead faster than its territory, Iowa. Our state is peculiar in its make-up in that there are no large cities. Des Moines is the only city with a population of over 100,000, and yet in the state there are over 200 cities that are important manufacturing communities. You can readily see what this means to the capital which is the largest city and is geographically located very near the center of the state.

For most purposes, Des Moines' territory is the state of Iowa. The outlying edges, in a business way, perhaps belong to the larger cities in other states. From a retail standpoint, we consider a territory of approximately 100 miles around Des Moines embracing a population of a million people.

Des Moines' manpower comes from the smaller communities of the state. The territory produces men and women who come to Des Moines, enter business, and become the leaders of the community.

A few days ago I was in the office of a large institution where the manager was considering applicants for the position of assistant purchasing agent. A young chap in the office at that time had presented the business man with some letters of recommendation from Des Moines firms where he had worked. On finding that the boy was reared in a smaller community, the business man said: "Take these recommendations back and bring me some from your home town." He later told me that he preferred a boy who had started in some small business in a small community rather than one who had been reared in the city with perhaps little or no responsibilities until he was out of college.

Early in the spring we sent a Fellowship Tour consisting of a hundred Des Moines business men out through a portion of our territory. In almost every community to which we went a reception committee awaited some member of our tour. The point here is that almost every member of the party had started his life and business in one of the smaller communities in the territory. He still maintained contact with that community and

was considered a home-town boy when he came back, even for a short visit. There is a family as well as a business tie between Des Moines and its entire territory.

Perhaps our city is unusual in that its daily paper is read in every community in the state. In over half of the counties the Des Moines daily paper exceeds in circulation every other daily paper including the local paper. The Des Moines Sunday paper has a larger circulation in 87 of the 99 counties than any other metropolitan Sunday paper. Almost 100% of Iowa farms read a farm paper published in Des Moines. All this indicates that the people in the territory are reading the same publications and are thinking along the same lines as the people in the city.

The labor in Des Moines factories is recruited for the most part from Iowa farms and small communities. The president of a national institution with a branch factory in Des Moines recently said: "There is no better or more efficient labor than the Iowa farm boy who was reared on the farm and has tinkered with a tractor, automobile and farm machinery all his life." It is this class of labor that predominates in Des Moines factories where over 87% of the people are native born. Think how different this is from the congested industrial center where notices to employees are printed in three or four different languages and where the labor is worn out after generations of labor under unfavorable conditions.

The one tie that is binding our city more and more to the territory is the paved road where the increasing number of automobiles and the increasing paved roads increase inter-relations with the territory. There are 10 paved roads leading out of the heart of the city. These are all paved all the way from a distance of 5 or 6 miles—the shortest one—to the state line on two different sides. This means that there are a dozen small cities that are closer to Des Moines from point of time and miles than some of the near suburbs of Chicago, New York, or other large cities.

A few weeks ago a road was opened south out of Des Moines to the Missouri State line. Sixteen miles out on this paving is the town of Indianola. An editorial in the Indianola paper a few days ago pointed out that several Des Moines business men had purchased homes in Indianola with the idea of moving their families there and commuting from and to Des Moines.

This city is no more than 30 minutes from the heart of our business district. Ames is from 40 to 50 minutes from the heart of our business district. We find in our factories, printing plants and other business institutions people living in Ankeny, Altoona and all other small cities from 10 to 15 miles from Des Moines. This means, of course, that the interests of the small communities are almost identical with the interests of Des Moines.

A number of years ago the State Fair week was considered a great trade week in Des Moines. People in the community planned for months ahead on spending a few days at the Fair. They came in and stayed anywhere from two or three days to a week and made purchases for the year. Now they come into the Fair as many days as they want to and never come near the business district of the city because coming to Des Moines is no longer a task to be planned ahead or to be tied in with some other event. People a hundred miles away think nothing of coming to Des Moines for

a meeting, for a show or some purchases or for any other reason. It is only a few hours' journey. A large percentage of the reservations for tickets to our theatres and musical entertainments are from people in the territory.

On the other hand, Des Moines people are going out in the territory just as readily. This winter Ames is to have an outstanding musical series. I know any number of Des Moines business men who are planning on attending these musical programs with their families. These good roads mean as much to the small communities as they do to Des Moines.

One of the largest merchandisers in the United States, on learning that the paving was to be opened from Des Moines to Indianola, rushed his agent to Indianola where he leased a double store front and opened a store. He realized that Indianola would draw trade from the surrounding territory just the same as Des Moines stores would draw people from Indianola.

As Des Moines grows it is more and more dependent upon its territory for food. Naturally a city does not produce its own food. Last year Des Moines paid over $23,000,000 for food products produced on the farm. Practically all of this came from a radius of 50-75 miles. In this territory there are 14,000 cows working every day in the year to supply milk for use in Des Moines homes. An additional 55,000 cows are on Des Moines' payroll producing cream for the butter plants. There are approximately 100,000 hens producing eggs for Des Moines' consumption.

A great amount of effort is spent by our organizations in increasing the industrial output of the city. When all is said and done there is only one ultimate gain by this industrial growth. That is, it provided a better local market for farm products. One never hears of farm relief around the larger cities of the east primarily because the immediate city demands all and more than is produced in this near-by vicinity.

Every factory employee that is added to Des Moines' payroll means that much more food consumed. The wage earners in Des Moines alone spend over three and one-half million dollars annually for food.

STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

A PROCLAMATION

To the People of Iowa:

After eight years of untiring effort in which Iowa citizens have taken a leading part, the government of the United States has passed legislation which promises to place the Agricultural Industry on a basis of economic equality with other industries. In order to accomplish this purpose a Federal Farm Board has been created and large sums of money have been made available. The first step in the Federal plan for the fulfillment of its pledge is to build farm organizations stronger and more effective.

The success of this plan, therefore, depends upon agricultural organizations. The responsibility for building these organizations is placed squarely upon the agricultural industry. This is, therefore, a time for action on the part of our State. Fortunately, through the earnest efforts of farm leaders over a long period of years, Iowa has a good foundation upon which to build. There are at present in the State approximately 700 coöperative elevators, 500 coöperative livestock shipping associations, 280 coöperative creameries and more than one-third of our farm population belong to the Farm Bureau and other general farm organizations. It is of the greatest importance that all of these organizations should be enlarged and strengthened.

Every citizen of the state is vitally interested in this program. The welfare of all our people, both rural and urban, depends primarily upon agricultural prosperity. The events of the past few years leave no doubt as to the truthfulness of this statement. There should be and must be, therefore, the most cordial coöperation between city and county interests if the greatest progress is to be made.

In view of the tremendous importance to the future of Iowa of a thorough organization of our agricultural industry, it is indeed fortunate that the American Country Life Association is holding its 12th Annual Conference at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, October 17 to 20. The theme of this conference is Rural Organization. The best minds and leadership of the country will be present at that time. May we not confidently hope that as Iowa has taken the leadership in formulating a national agricultural policy, that she will now take the lead in making that plan effective.

Iowa people can look to the future with the greatest optimism. Iowa has great natural resources, the most important of which is soil fertility.

Properly handled, the soil will go on producing indefinitely. Because of this fertile soil and the intelligence of her people, the labor of one farmer in Iowa produces more than twice as much as that of the average farmer throughout the United States. Iowa produces commodities which the world wants and must have. As our population increases these commodities will be more and more in demand. In food production, our future is assured.

Now, the chemist calls our attention to another source of wealth and that is the utilization of agricultural wastes. Through the aid of chemistry and engineering, it is now possible to convert waste materials like cornstalks, corn cobs, straw, oat hulls, etc., into profitable manufactured articles such as wood substitutes, paper, furfural, rayon, etc. This promises to be a most important industry within a few years.

Let us not forget that added income is important only as it aids in building a higher type of civilization. Hand in hand with our economic development must go the building of finer and better homes, communities, schools, roads, libraries, churches, hospitals, and all those things which go to make life most worth while. God has given us a soil of boundless resources, rich beyond compare, upon which, if we but do our part, can be built and supported, the highest rural civilization that the world has yet known. This challenge for united effort has come to Iowa leadership.

Therefore, I, John Hammill, Governor of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of October 14 to 20, inclusive, as

Country Life Week

and earnestly urge all farm organizations, Chambers of Commerce, luncheon clubs, schools, federated clubs, parent-teacher associations, churches and all agencies throughout the state to arrange programs calling attention to the great possibilities within our grasp that can be achieved through concerted action.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Iowa.

Done at Des Moines, this 13th day of September, A. D. 1929.

John Hammill, *Governor.*

[seal]

By the Governor

E. M. Smith, *Secretary of State.*

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